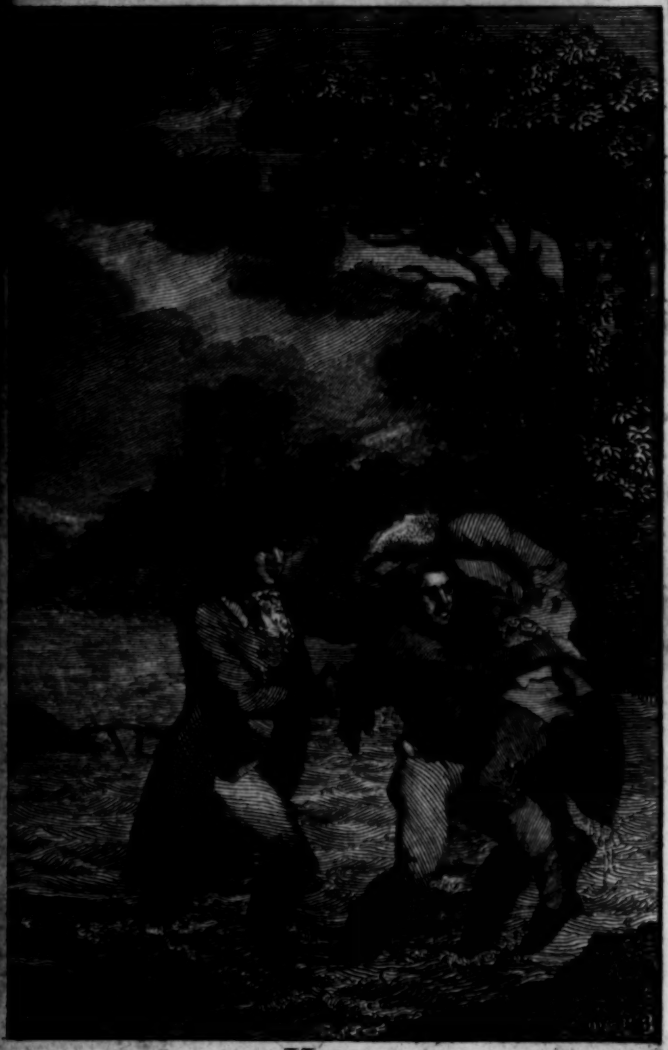
HUMPHRY CLINKER.



VOL. II.

Matthew Bramble saved from drowning by Humphry Clinker.

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THE EXPEDITION OF HUMPHRY CLINKER.

BY THE

AUTHOR

OF

RODERICK RANDOM.

VOL. II.

——Quorsum hæc tam putida tendunt,
Furcifer? Ad te, inquam—— Hor.

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THE EXPEDITION OF HUMPHRY CLINKER.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. of Jesus College, Oxon.

DEAR WAT,

WE made a precipitate retreat from Scarborough, owing to the exceſſive delicacy of our 'ſquire, who cannot bear the thoughts of being *prætereuntium digito monſtratus.*

One morning while he was bathing in the ſea, his man Clinker took it in his head that his maſter was in danger of drowning; and, in this conceit, plunging into the water, he lugged him out naked on the beach, and almoſt pulled off his ear in the operation. You may gueſs how this atchievement was reliſhed by Mr. Bramble, who is impatient, iraſcible, and has the moſt extravagant ideas of decency and decorum in the œconomy of his own perſon—In the firſt ebullition of his choler, he knocked Clinker

down with his fiſt; but he afterwards made him amends for this outrage, and, in order to avoid the farther notice of the people, among whom this incident had made him remarkable, he reſolved to leave Scarborough next day.

We ſet out accordingly over the moors, by the way of Whitby, and began our journey betimes, in hopes of reaching Stockton that night; but in this hope we were diſappointed—In the afternoon, croſſing a deep gutter, made by a torrent, the coach was ſo hard ſtrained, that one of the irons which connect the frame ſnapt, and the leather ſling on the ſame ſide cracked in the middle—The ſhock was ſo great, that my ſiſter Liddy ſtruck her head againſt Mrs. Tabitha's noſe with ſuch violence that the blood flowed; and Win Jenkins was darted through a ſmall window, in that part of the carriage next the horſes, where ſhe ſtuck like a bawd in the pillory, till ſhe was releaſed by the hand of Mr. Bramble. We were eight miles diſtant from any place where we could be ſupplied with chaiſes, and it was impoſſible to proceed with the coach, until the damage ſhould be repaired—In this dilemma, we diſcovered a black-ſmith's forge on the edge of a ſmall common, about half a mile from the ſcene of our diſaſter, and thither the poſtilions made ſhift to draw the carriage ſlowly, while the company walked a-foot; but we found the black-ſmith had been dead ſome days; and his wife, who had been lately delivered, was deprived of her ſenſes, under the care of a nurſe, hired by the pariſh. We were exceedingly mortified at this diſappointment, which, however, was ſurmounted by the help of Humphry Clinker, who is a ſurpriſing compound of genius and ſimplicity. Finding the tools of the de-funct, together with ſome coals, in the ſmithy, he unſcrewed the damaged iron in a twinkling, and,

kindling a fire, united the broken pieces with equal dexterity and diſpatch—While he was at work upon this operation, the poor woman in the ſtraw, ſtruck with the well-known ſound of the hammer and anvil, ſtarted up, and, notwithſtanding all the nurſe's efforts, came running into the ſmithy, where, throwing her arms about Clinker's neck, "Ah, Jacob! "(cried ſhe) how could you leave me in ſuch a con- "dition?"

This incident was too pathetic to occaſion mirth—it brought tears into the eyes of all preſent. The poor widow was put to bed again; and we did not leave the village without doing ſomething for her benefit—Even Tabitha's charity was awakened on this occaſion. As for the tender-hearted Humphry Clinker, he hammered the iron and wept at the ſame time—But his ingenuity was not confined to his own province of farrier and blackſmith—it was neceſſary to join the leather ſling, which had been broke; and this ſervice he likewiſe performed by means of a broken awl, which he new-pointed and ground, a little hemp, which he ſpun into lingels, and a few tacks which he made for the purpoſe——Upon the whole, we were in a condition to proceed in little more than one hour; but even this delay obliged us to paſs the night at Giſborough—Next day we croſſed the Tees at Stockton, which is a neat agreeable town; and there we reſolved to dine, with purpoſe to lie at Durham.

Whom ſhould we meet in the yard, when we alighted, but Martin the adventurer? Having handed out the ladies, and conducted them to an apartment, where he paid his compliments to Mrs. Tabby with his uſual addreſs, he begged leave to ſpeak to my uncle in another room; and there, in ſome confuſion, he made an apology for having taken the liberty

to trouble him with a letter at Stevenage. He expreſſed his hope, that Mr. Bramble had beſtowed ſome conſideration on his unhappy caſe, and repeated his deſire of being taken into his ſervice.

My uncle, calling me into the room, told him, that we were both very well inclined to reſcue him from a way of life that was equally dangerous and diſhonourable; and that he ſhould have no ſcruples in truſting to his gratitude and fidelity, if he had any employment for him which he thought would ſuit his qualifications and his circumſtances; but that all the departments he had mentioned in his letter were filled up by perſons of whoſe conduct he had no reaſon to complain; of conſequence he could not, without injuſtice, deprive any one of them of his bread—Nevertheleſs, he declared himſelf ready to aſſiſt him in any feaſible project, either with his purſe or credit.

Martin ſeemed deeply touched at this declaration—The tear ſtarted in his eye, while he ſaid, in a faultering accent—"Worthy ſir—your generoſity oppreſſes me—I never dreamed of troubling you "for any pecuniary aſſiſtance—indeed I have no "occaſion—I have been ſo lucky at billiards and "betting in different places, at Buxton, Harrigate, "Scarborough, and Newcaſtle races, that my ſtock "in ready money amounts to three hundred pounds, "which I would willingly employ in proſecuting "ſome honeſt ſcheme of life; but my friend juſtice "Buzzard, has ſet ſo many ſprings for my life, that "I am under the neceſſity of either retiring immediately to a remote part of the country, where I "can enjoy the protection of ſome generous patron, "or of quitting the kingdom altogether—It is upon "this alternative that I now beg leave to aſk your "advice—I have had information of all your route

"ſince I had the honour to ſee you at Stevenage; "and, ſuppoſing you would come this way from "Scarborough, I came hither laſt night from Dar- "lington, to pay you my reſpects."

"It would be no difficult matter to provide you "with an aſylum in the country (replied my uncle); "but a life of indolence and obſcurity would not "ſuit with your active and enterpriſing diſpoſition— "I would therefore adviſe you to try your fortune "in the Eaſt-Indies—I will give you a letter to a "friend in London, who will recommend you to "the Direction, for a commiſſion in the Company's "ſervice: and if that cannot be obtained, you will "at leaſt be received as a volunteer, in which caſe "you may pay for your paſſage, and I ſhall under- "take to procure you ſuch credentials, that you will "not be long without a commiſſion."

Martin embraced the propoſal with great eager- neſs; it was therefore reſolved, that he ſhould ſell his horſe, and take a paſſage by ſea for London, to execute the project without delay—In the mean time he accompanied us to Durham, where we took up our quarters for the night—Here, being furniſhed with letters from my uncle, he took his leave of us with ſtrong ſymptoms of gratitude and attachment, and ſet out for Sunderland, in order to embark in the firſt collier bound for the river Thames. He had not been gone half an hour, when we were joined by another character, which promiſed ſome- thing extraordinary—A tall, meagre figure, an- ſwering, with his horſe, the deſcription of Don Quixote mounted on Rozinante, appeared in the twilight at the inn door, while my aunt and Liddy ſtood at a window in the dining-room—He wore a coat, the cloth of which had once been ſcarlet,

trimmed with Brandenburgs, now totally deprived of their metal; and he had holſter-caps and houſing of the ſame ſtuff and ſame antiquity. Perceiving ladies at the window above, he endeavoured to diſmount with the moſt graceful air he could aſſume; but the oſtler neglecting to hold the ſtirrup when he wheeled off his right foot, and ſtood with his whole weight on the other, the girth unfortunately gave way, the ſaddle turned, down came the cavalier to the ground, and his hat and periwig falling off, diſplayed a head-piece of various colours, patched and plaiſtered in a woeful condition—The ladies, at the window above, ſhrieked with affright, on the ſuppoſition that the ſtranger had received ſome notable damage in his fall; but the greateſt injury he had ſuſtained aroſe from the diſhonour of his deſcent, aggravated by the diſgrace of expoſing the condition of his cranium; for certain plebeians that were about the door, laughed aloud, in belief that the captain had got either a ſcald head, or a broken head, both equally opprobrious.

He forthwith leaped up in a fury, and, ſnatching one of his piſtols, threatened to put the oſtler to death, when another ſquall from the women checked his reſentment. He then bowed to the window, while he kiſſed the butt-end of his piſtol, which he replaced, adjuſted his wig in great confuſion, and led his horſe into the ſtable. By this time I had come to the door, and could not help gazing at the ſtrange figure that preſented itſelf to my view—He would have meaſured above ſix feet in height, had he ſtood upright; but he ſtooped very much; was very narrow in the ſhoulders, and very thick in the calves of the legs, which were caſed in black ſpatterdaſhes—As for his thighs, they were long and ſlender, like thoſe

of a graſshopper; his face was at leaſt half a yard in length, brown, and ſhrivelled, with projecting cheek-bones, little grey eyes, on the greeniſh hue, a large hook-noſe, a pointed chin, a mouth from ear to ear very ill furniſhed with teeth, and a high narrow fore-head well furrowed with wrinkles. His horſe was exactly in the ſtyle of its rider; a reſurrection of dry bones, which (as we afterwards learned) he valued exceedingly, as the only preſent he had ever received in his life.

Having ſeen this favourite ſteed properly accommodated in the ſtable, he ſent up his compliments to the ladies, begging permiſſion to thank them in perſon for the marks of concern they had ſhewn at his diſaſter in the court-yard—As the 'ſquire ſaid they could not decently decline his viſit, he was ſhewn up ſtairs, and paid his reſpects in the Scotch dialect, with much formality—"Ladies (ſaid he), perhaps "ye may be ſcandaleezed at the appearance my heed "made, when it was uncovered by accident; but I "can aſſure you, the condition you ſaw it in, is nei-"ther the effects of diſeaſe nor of drunkenneſs; "but an honeſt ſcar, received in the ſervice of my "country." He then gave us to underſtand, that having been wounded at Ticonderoga, in America, a party of Indians rifled him, ſcalped him, broke his ſkull with the blow of a tomahawk, and left him for dead in the field of battle; but that being afterwards found with ſigns of life, he had been cured in the French hoſpital, though the loſs of ſubſtance could not be repaired; ſo that the ſcull was left naked in ſeveral places, and theſe he covered with patches.

There is no hold by which an Engliſhman is ſooner taken that of compaſſion—We were immediately intereſted in behalf of this veteran—Even Tabby's

heart was melted; but our pity was warmed with indignation, when we learned, that in the courſe of two ſanguinary wars he had been wounded, maimed, mutilated, taken and enſlaved, without ever having attained a higher rank than that of lieutenant ——My uncle's eyes gleamed, and his nether lip quivered, while he exclaimed, "I vow to God, ſir, "your caſe is a reproach to the ſervice—The injuſtice "you have met with is ſo flagrant—" "I muſt "crave your pardon, ſir (cried the other, interrupting him), I complain of no injuſtice—I purchaſed "an enſigncy thirty years ago; and in the courſe of "ſervice roſe to be a lieutenant, according to my ſe-"niority—" "But in ſuch a length of time (reſumed "the 'ſquire) you muſt have ſeen a great many young "officers put over your head—" "Nevertheleſs "(ſaid he), I have no cauſe to murmur—They bought "their preferment with their money—I had no "money to carry to market—that was my misfor-"tune; but no body was to blame—" "What! "no friend to advance a ſum of money?" (ſaid Mr. "Bramble). "Perhaps I might have borrowed mo-"ney for the purchaſe of a company (anſwered the "other); but that loan muſt have been refunded; "and I did not chuſe to encumber myſelf with a "debt of a thouſand pounds, to be paid from an in-"come of ten ſhillings a-day." "So you have ſpent "the beſt part of your life (cried Mr. Bramble), your "youth, your blood, and your conſtitution, amidſt "the dangers, the difficulties, the horrors, and hard-"ſhips of war, for the conſideration of three or four "ſhillings a day—a conſideration—" "Sir (re-"plied the Scot, with great warmth), you are the "man that does me injuſtice, if you ſay or think I "have been actuated by any ſuch paltry conſidera-

"tion——I am a gentleman; and entered the ser-
"vice as other gentlemen do, with ſuch hopes and
"ſentiments as honourable ambition inſpires—If I
"have not been lucky in the lottery of life, ſo nei-
"ther do I think myſelf unfortunate—I owe no
"man a farthing; I can always command a clean
"ſhirt, a mutton chop, and a truſs of ſtraw; and
"when I die, I ſhall leave effects ſufficient to defray
"the expence of my burial."

My uncle aſſured him, he had no intention to give him the leaſt offence, by the obſervations he had made; but, on the contrary, ſpoke from a ſentiment of friendly regard to his intereſt—The lieutenant thanked him with a ſtiffneſs of civility which nettled our old gentleman, who perceived that his moderation was all affected; for, whatſoever his tongue might declare, his whole appearance denoted diſſatisfaction—In ſhort, without pretending to judge of his military merit, I think I may affirm, that this Caledonian is a ſelf-conceited pedant, aukward, rude, and diſputacious—He has had the benefit of a ſchool-education, ſeems to have read a good number of books, his memory is tenacious, and he pretends to ſpeak ſeveral different languages; but he is ſo addicted to wrangling, that he will cavil at the cleareſt truths, and, in the pride of argumentation, attempt to reconcile contradictions——Whether his addreſs and qualifications are really of that ſtamp which is agreeable to the taſte of our aunt, Mrs. Tabitha, or that indefatigable maiden is determined to ſhoot at every ſort of game, certain it is ſhe has begun to practiſe upon the heart of the lieutenant, who favoured us with his company to ſupper.

I have many other things to ſay of this man of war, which I ſhall communicate in a poſt or two; mean

while, it is but reaſonable that you ſhould be indulged with ſome reſpite from theſe weary lucubrations of

Yours,

Newcaſtle upon Tyne,
July 10.

J. MELFORD.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. of Jeſus College, Oxon.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

IN my laſt I treated you with a high-flavoured diſh, in the character of the Scotch lieutenant, and I muſt preſent him once more for your entertainment. It was our fortune to feed upon him the beſt part of three days; and I do not doubt that he will ſtart again in our way before we ſhall have finiſhed our northern excurſion. The day after our meeting with him at Durham proved ſo tempeſtuous that we did not chooſe to proceed on our journey; and my uncle perſuaded him to ſtay till the weather ſhould clear up, giving him, at the ſame time, a general invitation to our meſs. The man has certainly gathered a whole budget of ſhrewd obſervations, but he brings them forth in ſuch an ungracious manner as would be extremely diſguſting, if it was not marked by that characteriſtic oddity which never fails to attract the attention.—He and Mr. Bramble diſcourſed, and even diſputed, on different ſubjects in war, policy, the belles lettres, law, and metaphyſics; and ſometimes they were warmed into ſuch altercation as ſeemed to threaten an abrupt diſſolution

of their ſociety; but Mr. Bramble ſet a guard over his own iraſcibility the more vigilantly as the officer was his gueſt; and when, in ſpite of all his efforts, he began to wax warm, the other prudently cooled in the ſame proportion.

Mrs. Tabitha chancing to accoſt her brother by the familiar diminutive of Matt, "Pray, ſir (ſaid the "lieutenant), is your name Matthias?" You muſt know, it is one of our uncle's foibles to be aſhamed of his name Matthew, becauſe it is puritanical; and this queſtion chagrined him ſo much, that he anſwered, "No, by G—d!" in a very abrupt tone of diſpleaſure—The Scot took umbrage at the manner of his reply, and briſtling up, "If I had known (ſaid "he) that you did not care to tell your name, I "ſhould not have aſked the queſtion—The leddy cal-"led you Matt, and I naturally thought it was Mat-"thias:——perhaps it may be Methuſelah, or Me-"trodorus, or Metellus, or Mathurinus, or Malthin-"nus, or Matamoros, or——" "No (cried my un-"cle laughing), it is neither of thoſe, captain;—my "name is Matthew Bramble, at your ſervice.—The "truth is, I have a fooliſh pique at the name of Mat-"thew, becauſe it favours of thoſe canting hypo-"crites, who, in Cromwell's time, chriſtened all "their children by names taken from the Scripture."——"A fooliſh pique indeed (cried Mrs. Tabby), "and even ſinful, to fall out with your name, be-"cauſe it is taken from holy writ.—I would have "you to know, you was called after great-uncle Mat-"thew ap Madoc ap Meredith, eſquire, of Llan-"wyſthin, in Montgomeryſhire, juſtice of the *quorum*, "and *cruſty ruttleorum*, a gentleman of great worth "and property, deſcended in a ſtrait line, by the fe-"male ſide, from Llewellyn, prince of Wales."

This genealogical anecdote seemed to make some impression upon the North-Briton, who bowed very low to the descendants of Llewellyn, and observed that he himself had the honour of a scriptural nomination. The lady expressing a desire of knowing his address, he said, he designed himself Lieutenant Obadiah Lismahago; and, in order to assist her memory, he presented her with a slip of paper, inscribed with these three words, which she repeated with great emphasis, declaring it was one of the most noble and sonorous names she had ever heard. He observed, that Obadiah was an adventitious appellation, derived from his great-grandfather, who had been one of the original Covenanters; but Lismahago was the family surname, taken from a place in Scotland so called. He likewise dropped some hints about the antiquity of his pedigree, adding, with a smile of self-denial, *Sed genus et proavos, et quæ non fecimus ipsi, vix ea nostra voco*; which quotation he explained in deference to the ladies; and Mrs. Tabitha did not fail to compliment him on his modesty, in waving the merit of his ancestry, adding, that it was the less necessary to him, as he had such a considerable fund of his own. She now began to glew herself to his favour with the grossest adulation.—She expatiated upon the antiquity and virtues of the Scottish nation, upon their valour, probity, learning, and politeness.—She even descended to encomiums on his own personal address, his gallantry, good-sense, and erudition.—She appealed to her brother, whether the captain was not the very image of our cousin governor Griffith.—She discovered a surprising eagerness to know the particulars of his life, and asked a thousand questions concerning his atchievements in war; all which Mr. Lismahago answered with a sort of jesuitical reserve, affecting a

reluctance to satisfy her curiosity on a subject that concerned his own exploits.

By dint of her interrogations, however, we learned, that he and ensign Murphy had made their escape from the French hospital at Montreal, and taken to the woods, in hope of reaching some English settlement; but mistaking their route, they fell in with a party of Miamis, who carried them away in captivity. The intention of these Indians was to give one of them as an adopted son to a venerable sachem, who had lost his own in the course of the war, and to sacrifice the other according to the custom of the country. Murphy, as being the younger and handsomer of the two, was designed to fill the place of the deceased, not only as the son of the sachem, but as the spouse of a beautiful squaw, to whom his predecessor had been betrothed; but in passing through the different wigwams or villages of the Miamis, poor Murphy was so mangled by the women and children, who have the privilege of torturing all prisoners in their passage, that, by the time they arrived at the place of the sachem's residence, he was rendered altogether unfit for the purposes of marriage: it was determined, therefore, in the assembly of the warriors, that ensign Murphy should be brought to the stake, and that the lady should be given to lieutenant Lismahago, who had likewise received his share of torments, though they had not produced emasculation.—A joint of one finger had been cut, or rather sawed off with a rusty knife; one of his great toes was crushed into a mash betwixt two stones; some of his teeth were drawn, or dug out with a crooked nail; splintered reeds had been thrust up his nostrils and other tender parts; and the calves of his legs had been blown up with mines of gunpowder dug in the flesh with the sharp point of the tomahawk.

The Indians themſelves allowed that Murphy died with great heroiſm, ſinging, as his death-ſong, the *drimmendoo*, in concert with Mr. Liſmahago, who was preſent at the ſolemnity. After the warriors and matrons had made a hearty meal upon the muſcular fleſh which they pared from the victim, and had applied a great variety of tortures, which he bore without flinching, an old lady, with a ſharp knife, ſcooped out one of his eyes, and put a burning coal in the ſocket. The pain of this operation was ſo exquiſite that he could not help bellowing, upon which the audience raiſed a ſhout of exultation, and one of the warriors ſtealing behind him, gave him the *coup de grace* with a hatchet.

Liſmahago's bride, the ſquaw Squinkinacooſta, diſtinguiſhed herſelf on this occaſion.—She ſhewed a great ſuperiority of genius in the tortures which ſhe contrived and executed with her own hands.—She vied with the ſtouteſt warrior in eating the fleſh of the ſacrifice; and after all the other females were fuddled with dram-drinking, ſhe was not ſo intoxicated but that ſhe was able to play the game of the platter with the conjuring ſachem, and afterwards go through the ceremony of her own wedding, which was conſummated that ſame evening. The captain had lived very happily with this accompliſhed ſquaw for two years, during which ſhe bore him a ſon, who is now the repreſentative of his mother's tribe; but, at length, to his unſpeakable grief, ſhe died of a fever, occaſioned by eating too much raw bear, which they had killed in a hunting excurſion.

By this time Mr. Liſmahago was elected ſachem, acknowledged firſt warrior of the Badger tribe, and dignified with the name or epithet of Occacanaſtaogarora, which ſignifies *nimble as a weaſel*; but all theſe advantages and honours he was obliged to re-

ſign, in conſequence of being exchanged for the orator of the community, who had been taken priſoner by the Indians that were in alliance with the Engliſh. At the peace, he had ſold out upon half-pay, and was returned to Britain, with a view to paſs the reſt of his life in his own country, where he hoped to find ſome retreat where his ſlender finances would afford him a decent ſubſiſtence. Such are the outlines of Mr. Liſmahago's hiſtory, to which Tabitha *did ſeriouſly incline an ear*;—indeed ſhe ſeemed to be taken with the ſame charms that captivated the heart of Deſdemona, who loved the Moor *for the dangers he had paſſed.*

The deſcription of poor Murphy's ſufferings, which threw my ſiſter Liddy into a ſwoon, extracted ſome ſighs from the breaſt of Mrs. Tabby: when ſhe underſtood he had been rendered unfit for marriage, ſhe began to ſpit, and ejaculated, "Jeſus, what cruel "barbarians!" and ſhe made wry faces at the lady's nuptial repaſt; but ſhe was eagerly curious to know the particulars of her marriage-dreſs; whether ſhe wore high-breaſted ſtays or boddice, a robe of ſilk or velvet, and laces of Mechlin or minionette—ſhe ſuppoſed, as they were connected with the French, ſhe uſed *rouge*, and had her hair dreſſed in the Pariſian faſhion. The captain would have declined giving a categorical explanation of all theſe particulars, obſerving, in general, that the Indians were too tenacious of their own cuſtoms to adopt the modes of any nation whatſoever: he ſaid, moreover, that neither the ſimplicity of their manners, nor the commerce of their country, would admit of thoſe articles of luxury which are deemed magnificence in Europe; and that they were too virtuous and ſenſible to encourage the introduction of any faſhion which might help to render them corrupt and effeminate.

These observations served only to inflame her d[e] af[f]
fire of knowing the particulars about which she ha[d] lo[w]
enquired; and, with all his evasion, he could n[ot] been [f]
help discovering the following circumstances—th[at] th[e]
his princess had neither shoes, stockings, shift, n[or] w[e]
any kind of linen—that her bridal dress consisted [of] faith,
a petticoat of red bays, and a fringed blanket, fasten[ed] and
about her shoulders with a copper skewer; but [no] room
ornaments she had great plenty.—Her hair was c[ut] A[s]
riously plaited, and interwoven with bobbins of h[u]- Li[t]
man bone—one eyelid was painted green, and th[e] fe[w]
other yellow; the cheeks were blue, the lips whit[e] lie[u]
the teeth red, and there was a black list drawn dow[n] gr[e]
the middle of the forehead, as far as the tip of th[e] *be[t]*
nose—a couple of gaudy parrot's feathers were stuc[k] sh[i]
through the division of the nostrils—there was a blu[e] of
stone set in the chin—her ear-rings consisted of tw[o] Th
pieces of hickery, of the size and shape of drum- ru
sticks—her arms and legs were adorned with brace- bl
lets of wampum—her breast glittered with numerou[s] cr
strings of glass beads—she wore a curious pouch, o[r] pi
pocket, of woven grass elegantly painted with variou[s] m
colours—about her neck was hung the fresh scalp o[f] p[o]
a Mohawk warrior, whom her deceased lover ha[d] T
lately slain in battle—and, finally, she was anointe[d] th[e]
from head to foot with bear's grease, which sent forth con
a most agreeable odour. tal

One would imagine that these paraphernalia would nei
not have been much admired by a modern fine lady evi
but Mrs. Tabitha was resolved to approve of all th[e] fa[y]
captain's connexions.—She wished, indeed, the squaw He
had been better provided with linen; but she owne[d] co[p]
there was much taste and fancy in her ornaments; ma
she made no doubt, therefore, that madam Squinki- fa
nacoosta was a young lady of good sense and rare ac- th
complishments, and a good christian at bottom. Then

she asked whether his consort had been high-church low church, presbyterian or anabaptist, or had been favoured with any glimmering of the new light of the gospel? When he confessed that she and her whole nation were utter strangers to the christian faith, she gazed at him with signs of astonishment, and Humphry Clinker, who chanced to be in the room, uttered a hollow groan.

After some pause, "In the name of God, captain Lismahago (cried she), what religion do they profess?" "As to religion, madam (answered the lieutenant), it is among those Indians a matter of great simplicity—they never heard of any *Alliance between Church and State*.—They, in general, worship two contending principles; one the Fountain of all Good, the other the source of evil.——The common people there, as in other countries, run into the absurdities of superstition; but sensible men pay adoration to a Supreme Being, who created and sustains the universe." "O! what pity (exclaimed the pious Tabby), that some holy man has not been inspired to go and convert these poor heathens!"

The lieutenant told her, that while he resided among them, two French missionaries arrived, in order to convert them to the catholic religion; but when they talked of mysteries and revelations which they could neither explain nor authenticate, and called in the evidence of miracles which they believed upon hearsay; when they taught, that the Supreme Creator of Heaven and Earth had allowed his only Son, his own equal in power and glory, to enter the bowels of a woman, to be born as a human creature, to be insulted, flagellated, and even executed as a malefactor; when they pretended to create God himself, to swallow, digest, revive, and multiply him *ad infinitum*, by the

help of a little flour and water, the Indians were ſhocked at the impiety of their preſumption.—They were examined by the aſſembly of the ſachems, who deſired them to prove the divinity of their miſſion by ſome miracle.—They anſwered that it was not in their power.——"If you really were ſent by Hea-"ven for our converſion (ſaid one of the ſachems), "you would certainly have ſome ſupernatural endow-"ments, at leaſt you would have the gift of tongues, "in order to explain your doctrine to the different "nations among which you are employed; but you "are ſo ignorant of our language, that you cannot "expreſs yourſelves even on the moſt trifling ſub-"jects."

In a word, the aſſembly were convinced of their being cheats, and even ſuſpected them of being ſpies:—they ordered them a bag of Indian corn a-piece, and appointed a guide to conduct them to the frontiers; but the miſſionaries having more zeal than diſcretion, refuſed to quit the vineyard.—They perſiſted in ſaying maſs, in preaching, baptizing, and ſquabbling with the conjurers, or prieſts of the country, till they had thrown the whole community into confuſion.—Then the aſſembly proceeded to try them as impious impoſtors, who repreſented the Almighty as a trifling, weak, capricious being, and pretended to make, unmake, and reproduce him at pleaſure: they were, therefore, convicted of blaſphemy and ſedition, and condemned to the ſtake, where they died ſinging *Salve regina*, in a rapture of joy, for the crown of martyrdom which they had thus obtained.

In the courſe of this converſation, lieutenant Liſmahago dropt ſome hints by which it appeared he himſelf was a free-thinker. Our aunt ſeemed to be ſtartled at certain ſarcaſms he threw out againſt the

creed of St. Athanaſius.—He dwelt much upon the words *reaſon*, *philoſophy*, and *contradiction in terms*—he bid defiance to the eternity of hell-fire; and even threw ſuch ſquibs at the immortality of the ſoul, as ſinged a little the whiſkers of Mrs. Tabitha's faith; for, by this time, ſhe began to look upon Liſmahago as a prodigy of learning and ſagacity.—In ſhort, he could be no longer inſenſible to the advances ſhe made towards his affection; and although there was ſomething repulſive in his nature, he overcame it ſo far as to make ſome return to her civilities.—Perhaps, he thought it would be no bad ſcheme in a ſuperannuated lieutenant on half-pay to effect a conjunction with an old maid, who, in all probability, had fortune enough to keep him eaſy and comfortable in the fag-end of his days.——An ogling correſpondence forthwith commenced between this amiable pair of originals.—He began to ſweeten the natural acidity of his diſcourſe with the treacle of compliment and commendation.—He from time to time offered her ſnuff, of which he himſelf took great quantities, and even made her a preſent of a purſe of ſilk graſs, woven by the hands of the amiable Squinkinacooſta, who had uſed it as a ſhot pouch in her hunting-expeditions.

From Doncaſter northwards, all the windows of all the inns are ſcrawled with doggrel rhimes, in abuſe of the Scotch nation; and what ſurprized me very much, I did not perceive one line written in the way of recrimination—Curious to hear what Liſmahago would ſay on this ſubject, I pointed out to him a very ſcurrilous epigram againſt his countrymen, which was engraved on one of the windows of the parlour where we ſat.—He read it with the moſt ſtarched compoſure; and when I aſked his opinion of the poetry, "It is vara terſe and vara poignant;

" (ſaid he) but with the help of a wat diſh-clout, it " might be rendered more clear and parſpicuous.—" I marvel much that ſome modern wit has not pub-" liſhed a collection of theſe eſſays, under the title of " the *Glazier's Triumph over Sawney the Scot*—I'm " perſuaded it would be a vera agreeable offering to " the patriots of London and Weſtminſter." When I expreſſed ſome ſurprize that the natives of Scotland who travel this way, had not broke all the windows upon the road, " With ſubmiſſion (replied the lieu-" tenant), that were but ſhallow policy—it would " only ſerve to make the ſatire more cutting and ſe-" vere; and I think, it is much better to let it ſtand " in the window, than have it preſented in the " reckoning."

My uncle's jaws began to quiver with indignation. ——He ſaid, the ſcribblers of ſuch infamous ſtuff deſerved to be ſcourged at the cart's tail for diſgracing their country with ſuch monuments of malice and ſtupidity.—" Theſe vermin (ſaid he) do not con-" ſider that they are affording their fellow-ſubjects, " whom they abuſe, continual matter of ſelf-gratula-" tion, as well as the means of executing the moſt " manly vengeance that can be taken for ſuch low, " illiberal attacks. For my part, I admire the philo-" ſophic forbearance of the Scots, as much as I de-" ſpiſe the inſolence of thoſe wretched libellers, which " is akin to the arrogance of the village cock who ne-" ver crows but upon his own dunghill." The captain, with an affectation of candour, obſerved, that men of illiberal minds were produced in every ſoil; that in ſuppoſing thoſe were the ſentiments of the Engliſh in general, he ſhould pay too great a compliment to his own country, which was not of conſequence enough to attract the envy of ſuch a flouriſhing and powerful people.

Mrs. Tabby broke forth again in praiſe of his moderation, and declared that Scotland was the ſoil which produced every virtue under heaven.—When Liſmahago took his leave for the night, ſhe aſked her brother if the captain was not the prettieſt gentleman he had ever ſeen; and whether there was not ſomething wonderfully engaging in his aſpect?—Mr. Bramble having eyed her ſome time in ſilence, "Siſter (ſaid he), the lieutenant is, for aught I know, "an honeſt man, and a good officer—he has a conſiderable ſhare of underſtanding, and a title to more "encouragement than he ſeems to have met with in "life; but I cannot, with a ſafe conſcience, affirm, "that he is the prettieſt gentleman I ever ſaw; neither can I diſcern any engaging charm in his countenance, which, I vow to God, is, on the contrary, "very hard-favoured and forbidding."

I have endeavoured to ingratiate myſelf with this North-Briton, who is really a curioſity; but he has been very ſhy of my converſation ever ſince I laughed at his aſſerting that the Engliſh tongue was ſpoke with more propriety at Edinburgh than at London. Looking at me with a double ſqueeze of ſouring in his aſpect, "If the old definition be true (ſaid he), that "riſibility is the diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic of a rational creature, the Engliſh are the moſt diſtinguiſhed for rationality of any people I ever knew." I owned, that the Engliſh were eaſily ſtruck with anything that appeared ludicrous, and apt to laugh accordingly; but it did not follow, that, becauſe they were more given to laughter, they had more rationality than their neighbours: I ſaid, ſuch an inference would be an injury to the Scots, who were by no means defective in rationality, though generally ſuppoſed little ſubject to the impreſſions of humour.

The captain anſwered, that this ſuppoſition muſt

have been deduced either from their converſation or their compoſitions, of which the Engliſh could not poſſibly judge with preciſion, as they did not underſtand the dialect uſed by the Scots in common diſcourſe, as well as in their works of humour. When I deſired to know what thoſe works of humour were, he mentioned a conſiderable number of pieces, which he inſiſted were equal in point of humour to any thing extant in any language dead or living.——He, in particular, recommended a collection of detached poems, in two ſmall volumes, intituled, *The Evergreen*, and the works of Allan Ramſay, which I intend to provide myſelf with at Edinburgh —He obſerved, that a North-Briton is ſeen to a diſadvantage in an Engliſh company, becauſe he ſpeaks in a dialect that they can't reliſh, and in a phraſeology which they don't underſtand.—He therefore finds himſelf under a reſtraint, which is a great enemy to wit and humour.—Theſe are faculties which never appear in full luſtre but when the mind is perfectly at eaſe, and, as an excellent writer ſays, enjoys *her elbow-room.*

He proceeded to explain his aſſertion that the Engliſh language was ſpoken with greater propriety at Edinburgh than in London.—He ſaid what we generally called the Scottiſh dialect was, in fact, true genuine old Engliſh, with a mixture of ſome French terms and idioms, adopted in a long intercourſe betwixt the French and Scotch nations; that the modern Engliſh, from affectation and falſe refinement, had weakened, and even corrupted their language, by throwing out the guttural ſounds, altering the pronunciation and the quantity, and diſuſing many words and terms of great ſignificance. In conſequence of theſe innovations, the works of our beſt poets, ſuch as Chaucer, Spenſer, and even Shakſpeare, were become, in many parts, unintelligible to the

tives of South-Britain; whereas the Scots, who re-
m the ancient language, underſtand them without
e help of a gloſſary. "For inſtance (ſaid he), how
ave your commentators been puzzled by the fol-
lowing expreſſion in the *Tempeſt*—*He's gentle, and not fearful*; as if it was a paralogiſm to ſay, that being *gentle*, he muſt of courſe be *courageous*: but the truth is, one of the original meanings, if not the ſole meaning, of that word was, *noble, high-minded*; and to this day, a Scotch woman, in the ſituation of the young lady in the *Tempeſt*, would expreſs herſelf nearly in the ſame terms—Don't provoke him; for being gentle, that is, *high-ſpirited*, he won't tamely bear an inſult. Spenſer, in the very firſt ſtanza of his *Faery Queen*, ſays,

"A *gentle* knight was pricking on the plain;"

which knight, far from being *tame* and fearful, was ſo ſtout that

"Nothing did he dread, but ever was ydrad."

To prove that we had impaired the energy of our language by falſe refinement, he mentioned the following words, which, though widely different in ſignification, are pronounced exactly in the ſame manner—*wright write, right, rite*; but among the Scots, theſe words are as different in pronunciation, as they are in meaning and orthography; and this is the caſe with many others which he mentioned by way of illuſtration.——He moreover took notice, that we had (for what reaſon he could never learn) altered the ſound of our vowels from that which is retained by all the nations in Europe; an alteration which rendered the language extremely difficult to fo-

reigners, and made it almoſt impracticable to lay down general rules for orthography and pronunciation. Beſides, the vowels were no longer ſimple ſounds in the mouth of an Engliſhman, who pronounced both *i* and *u* as diphthongs. Finally, he affirmed, that we mumbled our ſpeech with our lips and teeth, and ran the words together without pauſe or diſtinction, in ſuch a manner, that a foreigner, though he underſtood Engliſh tolerably well, was often obliged to have recourſe to a Scotchman to explain what a native of England had ſaid in his own language.

The truth of this remark was confirmed by Mr Bramble from his own experience; but he accounted for it on another principle—He ſaid, the ſame obſervation would hold in all languages; that a Swiſs talking French was more eaſily underſtood than a Pariſian by a foreigner who had not made himſelf maſter of the language, becauſe every language has its peculiar recitative, and it would always require more pains, attention, and practice, to acquire both the words and the muſic, than to learn the words only; and yet no body would deny, that the one was imperfect without the other: he therefore apprehended, that the Scotchman and the Swiſs were better underſtood by learners, becauſe they ſpoke the words only, without the muſic, which they could not rehearſe. One would imagine this check might have damped the North-Briton; but it ſerved only to agitate his humour for diſputation.——He ſaid, if every nation had its own recitative or muſic, the Scots had theirs, and the Scotchman who had not yet acquired the cadence of the Engliſh, would naturally uſe his own in ſpeaking their language; therefore, if he was better underſtood than the native, his recitative muſt be more intelligible than that of the Engliſh; of conſequence, the dialect of the Scots had an ad-

vantage over that of their fellow-subjects, and this was another strong presumption that the modern English had corrupted their language in the article of pronunciation.

The lieutenant was, by this time, become so polemical, that every time he opened his mouth, out flew a paradox, which he maintained with all the enthusiasm of altercation; but all his paradoxes savoured strong of a partiality for his own country. He undertook to prove that poverty was a blessing to a nation; that *oatmeal* was preferable to *wheat flour*; and that the worship of Cloacina in temples which admitted both sexes, and every rank of votaries promiscuously, was a filthy species of idolatry that outraged every idea of delicacy and decorum. I did not so much wonder at his broaching these doctrines, as at the arguments, equally whimsical and ingenious, which he adduced in support of them.

In fine, lieutenant Lismahago is a curiosity which I have not yet sufficiently perused; and therefore I shall be sorry when we lose his company, though, God knows, there is nothing very amiable in his manner or disposition.—As he goes directly to the south-west division of Scotland, and we proceed in the road to Berwick, we shall part to-morrow at a place called Felton-bridge; and, I dare say, this separation will be very grievous to our aunt, Mrs. Tabitha, unless she has received some flattering assurance of his meeting her again. If I fail in my purpose of entertaining you with these unimportant occurrences, they will at least serve as exercises of patience, for which you are indebted to

Yours always,

Morpeth, July 13. J. MELFORD.

To Dr. Lewis.

DEAR DOCTOR,

I HAVE now reached the northern extremity of England, and see, close to my chamber window, the Tweed gliding through the arches of that bridge which connects this suburb to the town of Berwick.—Yorkshire you have seen, and therefore I shall say nothing of that opulent province. The city of Durham appears like a confused heap of stones and brick, accumulated so as to cover a mountain, round which a river winds its brawling course. The streets are generally narrow, dark and unpleasant, and many of them almost impassable in consequence of their declivity. The cathedral is a huge gloomy pile; but the clergy are well lodged.—The bishop lives in a princely manner—the golden prebends keep plentiful tables—and, I am told, there is some good sociable company in the place; but the country, when viewed from the top of Gateshead Fell, which extends to Newcastle, exhibits the highest scene of cultivation that ever I beheld. As for Newcastle, it lies mostly in a bottom, on the banks of the Tyne, and makes an appearance still more disagreeable than that of Durham; but it is rendered populous and rich by industry and commerce; and the country lying on both sides the river, above the town, yields a delightful prospect of agriculture and plantation. Morpeth and Alnwick are neat pretty towns, and this last is famous for the castle which has belonged so many ages to the noble house of Percy, earls of Northumberland.—It is, doubtless, a large edifice, containing a great number

apartments, and ſtands in a commanding ſituation; but the ſtrength of it ſeems to have conſiſted not ſo much in its ſite, or the manner in which it is fortified, as in the valour of its defendants.

Our adventures ſince we left Scarborough, are ſcarce worth reciting; and yet I muſt make you acquainted with my ſiſter Tabby's progreſs in huſband-hunting, after her diſappointments at Bath and London. She had actually begun to practiſe upon a certain adventurer, who was in fact a highwayman by profeſſion; but he had been uſed to ſnares much more dangerous than any ſhe could lay, and eſcaped accordingly.—Then ſhe opened her batteries upon an old weather-beaten Scotch lieutenant, called Liſmahago, who joined us at Durham, and is, I think, one of the moſt ſingular perſonages I ever encountered.—His manner is as harſh as his countenance; but his peculiar turn of thinking, and his pack of knowledge made up of the remnants of rarities, rendered his converſation deſirable, in ſpite of his pedantry and ungracious addreſs.—I have often met with a crab-apple in a hedge, which I have been tempted to eat for its flavour, even while I was diſguſted by its auſterity. The ſpirit of contradiction is naturally ſo ſtrong in Liſmahago, that I believe in my conſcience he has rummaged, and read, and ſtudied with indefatigable attention, in order to qualify himſelf to refute eſtabliſhed maxims, and thus raiſe trophies for the gratification of polemical pride.—Such is the aſperity of his ſelf conceit, that he will not even acquieſce in a tranſient compliment made to his own individual in particular, or to his country in general.

When I obſerved that he muſt have read a vaſt number of books to be able to diſcourſe on ſuch a variety of ſubjects, he declared he had read little or

nothing, and asked how he should find books among the woods of America, where he had spent the greatest part of his life. My nephew remarking that the Scots in general were famous for their learning, he denied the imputation, and defied him to prove it from their works. — "The Scots (said he) have a "slight tincture of letters, with which they make a "parade among people who are more illiterate than "themselves; but they may be said to float on the "surface of science, and they have made very small "advances in the useful arts." "At least (cried "Tabby) all the world allows that the Scots behaved gloriously in fighting and conquering the savages of America." "I can assure you, madam, "you have been misinformed (replied the lieutenant); in that continent the Scots did nothing "more than their duty, nor was there one corps in "his majesty's service that distinguished itself more "than another.——Those who affected to extol the "Scots for superior merit, were no friends to that "nation."

Though he himself made free with his countrymen, he would not suffer any other person to glance a sarcasm at them with impunity. One of the company chancing to mention lord B——'s inglorious peace, the lieutenant immediately took up the cudgels in his lordship's favour, and argued very strenuously to prove that it was the most honourable and advantageous peace that England had ever made since the foundation of the monarchy.—Nay, between friends, he offered such reasons on this subject, that I was really confounded, if not convinced.— He would not allow that the Scots abounded above their proportion in the army and navy of Great Britain, or that the English had any reason to say his countrymen had met with extraordinary encouragement in the ser-

vice.—" When a South and North Briton (said he) " are competitors for a place or commission which " is in the disposal of an English minister or an En- " glish general, it would be absurd to suppose that " the preference will not be given to the native of " England, who has so many advantages over his " rival. — First and foremost, he has in his favour " that laudable partiality, which, Mr. Addison says, " never fails to cleave to the heart of an Englishman; " secondly, he has more powerful connections, and " a greater share of parliamentary interest, by which " those contests are generally decided; and, lastly, he " has a greater command of money to smooth the way " to his success. For my own part (said he), I know " no Scotch officer who has risen in the army above " the rank of a subaltern, without purchasing every " degree of preferment either with money or recruits; " but I know many gentlemen of that country, who, " for want of money and interest, have grown grey in " the rank of lieutenants; whereas very few instances " of this ill-fortune are to be found among the natives " of South Britain.—Not that I would insinuate that " my countrymen have the least reason to complain. " —Preferment in the service, like success in any " other branch of traffic, will naturally favour those " who have the greatest stock of cash and credit, " merit and capacity being supposed equal on all " sides."

But the most hardy of all this original's positions were these: — That commerce would, sooner or later, prove the ruin of every nation where it flourishes to any extent — that the parliament was the rotten part of the British constitution—that the liberty of the press was a national evil —and that the boasted institution of juries, as managed in England, was productive of shameful perjury, and flagrant injustice.

He obſerved, that traffic was an enemy to all the liberal paſſions of the ſoul, founded on the thirſt of lucre, a ſordid diſpoſition to take advantage of the neceſſities of our fellow-creatures.——He affirmed the nature of commerce was ſuch, that it could not be fixed or perpetuated, but, having flowed to a certain height, would immediately begin to ebb, and ſo continue till the channels ſhould be left almoſt dry; but there was no inſtance of the tide's riſing a ſecond time to any conſiderable influx in the ſame nation. Mean while the ſudden affluence occaſioned by trade forced open all the ſluices of luxury, and overflowed the land with every ſpecies of profligacy and corruption; a total pravity of manners would enſue, and this muſt be attended with bankruptcy and ruin. He obſerved of the parliament, that the practice of buying boroughs, and canvaſſing for votes, was an avowed ſyſtem of venality, already eſtabliſhed on the ruins of principle, integrity, faith, and good order, in conſequence of which the elected and the elector, and, in ſhort, the whole body of the people, were equally and univerſally contaminated and corrupted. He affirmed that of a parliament thus conſtituted, the crown would always have influence enough to ſecure a great majority in its dependence, from the great number of poſts, places, and penſions it had to beſtow; that ſuch a parliament would (as it had already done) lengthen the term of its ſitting and authority, whenever the prince ſhould think it for his intereſt to continue the repreſentatives; for, without doubt, they had the ſame right to protract their authority *ad infinitum*, as they had to extend it from three to ſeven years.—With a parliament, therefore, dependent upon the crown, devoted to the prince, and ſupported by a ſtanding army, garbled and modelled for the purpoſe, any king of England may, and probably

ſome ambitious ſovereign will, totally overthrow all the bulwarks of the conſtitution; for it is not to be ſuppoſed that a prince of a high ſpirit will tamely ſubmit to be thwarted in all his meaſures, abuſed and inſulted by a populace of unbridled ferocity, when he has it in his power to cruſh all oppoſition under his feet with the concurrence of the legiſlature. He ſaid, he ſhould always conſider the liberty of the preſs as a national evil, while it enabled the vileſt reptile to ſoil the luſtre of the moſt ſhining merit, and furniſhed the moſt infamous incendiary with the means of diſturbing the peace and deſtroying the good order of the community. He owned, however, that, under due reſtrictions, it would be a valuable privilege; but affirmed, that at preſent there was no law in England ſufficient to reſtrain it within proper bounds.

With reſpect to juries, he expreſſed himſelf to this effect —— Juries are generally compoſed of illiterate plebeians, apt to be miſtaken, eaſily miſled, and open to ſiniſter influence; for if either of the parties to be tried, can gain over one of the twelve jurors, he has ſecured the verdict in his favour; the juryman thus brought over will, in deſpight of all evidence and conviction, generally hold out till his fellows are fatigued, and harraſſed, and ſtarved into concurrence; in which caſe the verdict is unjuſt, and the jurors are all perjured: but caſes will often occur, when the jurors are really divided in opinion, and each ſide is convinced in oppoſition to the other; but no verdict will be received, unleſs they are unanimous, and they are all bound not only in conſcience, but by oath, to judge and declare according to their conviction.—— What then will be the conſequence? — They muſt either ſtarve in company, or one ſide muſt ſacrifice their conſcience to their convenience, and join in a

verdict which they believe to be false. This absurdity is avoided in Sweden, where a bare majority is sufficient; and in Scotland, where two-thirds of the jury are required to concur in the verdict.

You must not imagine that all these deductions were made on his part, without contradiction on mine. — No—the truth is, I found myself piqued in point of honour, at his pretending to be so much wiser than his neighbours.—I questioned all his assertions, started innumerable objections, argued and wrangled with uncommon perseverance, and grew very warm, and even violent, in the debate.—Sometimes he was puzzled, and once or twice, I think, fairly refuted; but from those falls he rose again, like Antæus, with redoubled vigour, till at length I was tired, exhausted, and really did not know how to proceed, when luckily he dropped a hint, by which he discovered he had been bred to the law; a confession which enabled me to retire from the dispute with a good grace, as it could not be supposed that a man like me, who had been bred to nothing, should be able to cope with a veteran in his own profession. I believe, however, that I shall for some time continue to chew the cud of reflection upon many observations which this original discharged.

Whether our sister Tabby was really struck with his conversation, or is resolved to throw at every thing she meets in the shape of a man, till she can fasten the matrimonial noose, certain it is she has taken desperate strides towards the affection of Lismahago, who cannot be said to have met her half way, though he does not seem altogether insensible to her civilities.—She insinuated more than once how happy we should be to have his company through that part of Scotland which we proposed to visit, till at length he plainly told us, that his road was totally different

from that which we intended to take; that, for his part, his company would be of very little ſervice to us in our progreſs, as he was utterly unacquainted with the country, which he had left in his early youth, conſequently, he could neither direct us in our inquiries, nor introduce us to any family of diſtinction. He ſaid, he was ſtimulated by an irreſiſtible impulſe to reviſit the *paternus lar*, or *patria domus*, though he expected little ſatisfaction, inaſmuch as he underſtood that his nephew, the preſent poſſeſſor, was but ill qualified to ſupport the honour of the family.— He aſſured us, however, as we deſign to return by the weſt road, that he would watch our motions, and endeavour to pay his reſpects to us at Dumfries.—Accordingly he took his leave of us at a place half way betwixt Morpeth and Alnwick, and pranced away in great ſtate, mounted on a tall, meagre, raw-boned, ſhambling grey gelding, wi'out e'er a tooth in his head, the very counterpart of the rider; and, indeed, the appearance of the two was ſo picturesque, that I would give twenty guineas to have them tolerably repreſented on canvas.

Northumberland is a fine county, extending to the Tweed, which is a pleaſant paſtoral ſtream; but you will be ſurpriſed when I tell you that the Engliſh ſide of that river is neither ſo well cultivated nor ſo populous as the other.—The farms are thinly ſcattered, the lands unincloſed, and ſcarce a gentleman's ſeat is to be ſeen in ſome miles from the Tweed; whereas the Scots are advanced in crowds to the very brink of the river, ſo that you may reckon above thirty good houſes, in the compaſs of a few miles, belonging to proprietors whoſe anceſtors had fortified caſtles in the ſame ſituations; a circumſtance that ſhews what dangerous neighbours the

Scots muſt have formerly been to the northern counties of England.

Our domeſtic œconomy continues on the old footing. — My ſiſter Tabby ſtill adheres to Methodiſm, and had the benefit of a ſermon at Weſley's meeting in Newcaſtle; but I believe the paſſion of love has in ſome meaſure abated the fervor of devotion both in her and her woman, Mrs. Jenkins, about whoſe good graces there has been a violent conteſt betwixt my nephew's valet, Mr. Dutton, and my man, Humphry Clinker. — Jery has been obliged to interpoſe his authority to keep the peace; and to him I have left the diſcuſſion of that important affair, which had like to have kindled the flames of diſcord in the family of

Yours always,

Tweedmouth,
July 15.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR WAT,

IN my two laſt you had ſo much of Liſmahago, that I ſuppoſe you are glad he is gone off the ſtage for the preſent. — I muſt now deſcend to domeſtic occurrences. — Love, it ſeems, is reſolved to aſſert his dominion over all the females of our family. — After having practiſed upon poor Liddy's heart, and played ſtrange vagaries with our aunt Mrs. Tabitha, he began to run riot in the affections of her woman Mrs. Winifred Jenkins, whom I have had occaſion

to mention more than once in the courſe of our memoirs. Nature intended Jenkins for ſomething very different from the character of her miſtreſs; yet cuſtom and habit have effected a wonderful reſemblance betwixt them in many particulars. Win, to be ſure, is much younger, and more agreeable in her perſon; ſhe is likewiſe tender-hearted and benevolent, qualities for which her miſtreſs is by no means remarkable, no more than ſhe is for being of a timorous diſpoſition, and much ſubject to fits of the mother, which are the infirmities of Win's conſtitution: but then ſhe ſeems to have adopted Mrs. Tabby's manner with her caſt cloaths.—She dreſſes and endeavours to look like her miſtreſs, although her own looks are much more engaging.—She enters into her ſcheme of œconomy, learns her phraſes, repeats her remarks, imitates her ſtile in ſcolding the inferior ſervants, and, finally, ſubſcribes implicitly to her ſyſtem of devotion.—This, indeed, ſhe found the more agreeable, as it was in a great meaſure introduced and confirmed by the miniſtry of Clinker, with whoſe perſonal merit ſhe ſeems to have been ſtruck ever ſince he exhibited the pattern of his naked ſkin at Marlborough.

Nevertheleſs, though Humphry had this double hank upon her inclinations, and exerted all his power to maintain the conqueſt he had made, he found it impoſſible to guard it on the ſide of vanity, where poor Win was as frail as any female in the kingdom. In ſhort, my raſcal Dutton profeſſed himſelf her admirer, and by dint of his outlandiſh qualifications, threw his rival, Clinker, out of the ſaddle of her heart. Humphry may be compared to an Engliſh pudding, compoſed of good wholeſome flour and ſuet, and Dutton to a ſyllabub, or iced froth, which, though agreeable to the taſte, has nothing ſolid or ſubſtantial

The traitor not only dazzled her with his ſecond-hand finery, but he fawned, and flattered, and cringed—he taught her to take rappee, and preſented her with a ſnuff-box of *papier maché*—he ſupplied her with a powder for her teeth—he mended her complexion, and dreſſed her hair in the Paris faſhion—he undertook to be her French maſter and her dancing maſter, as well as friſeur, and thus imperceptibly wound himſelf into her good graces. Clinker perceived the progreſs he had made, and repined in ſecret—He attempted to open her eyes in the way of exhortation, and finding it produced no effect, had recourſe to prayer. At Newcaſtle, while he attended Mrs. Tabby to the Methodiſt meeting, his rival accompanied Mrs. Jenkins to the play. He was dreſſed in a ſilk coat, made at Paris for his former maſter, with a tawdry waiſtcoat of tarniſhed brocade; he wore his hair in a great bag with a huge ſolitaire; a long ſword dangled from his thigh. The lady was all of a flutter with faded luteſtring, waſhed gauze, and ribbons three times refreſhed; but ſhe was moſt remarkable for the friſure of her head, which roſe, like a pyramid, ſeven inches above the ſcalp, and her face was primed and patched from the chin up to the eyes; nay, the gallant himſelf had ſpared neither red nor white in improving the nature of his own complexion. In this attire, they walked together through the High-ſtreet to the theatre, and as they paſſed for players ready dreſſed for acting, they reached it unmoleſted; but as it was ſtill light when they returned, and by that time the people had got information of their real character and condition, they hiſſed and hooted all the way, and Mrs Jenkins was all beſpattered with dirt, as well as inſulted with the opprobrious name of *painted Jezabel*, ſo that her fright and mor-

tification threw her into an hyſteric fit the moment ſhe came home.

Clinker was ſo incenſed at Dutton, whom he conſidered as the cauſe of her diſgrace, that he upbraided him ſeverely for having turned the poor young woman's brain. The other affected to treat him with contempt, and, miſtaking his forbearance for want of courage, threatened to horſe-whip him into good manners. Humphry then came to me, humbly begging I would give him leave to chaſtiſe my ſervant for his inſolence— "He has challenged "me to fight him at ſword's point (ſaid he); but "I might as well challenge him to make a horſe-"ſhoe, or a plough iron; for I know no more of "the one than he does of the other. — Beſides, it "doth not become ſervants to uſe thoſe weapons, or "to claim the privilege of gentlemen to kill one "another when they fall out; moreover, I would "not have his blood upon my conſcience for ten "thouſand times the profit or ſatisfaction I ſhould "get by his death; but if your honour won't be an-"gry, I'll engage to gee en a good drubbing, that "may hap will do 'en ſervice, and I'll take care it "ſhall do 'en no harm." I ſaid, I had no objection to what he propoſed, provided he could manage matters ſo as not to be found the aggreſſor, in caſe Dutton ſhould proſecute him for an aſſault and battery.

Thus licenſed, he retired; and that ſame evening eaſily provoked his rival to ſtrike the firſt blow, which Clinker returned with ſuch intereſt that he was obliged to call for quarter, declaring, at the ſame time, that he would exact ſevere and bloody ſatisfaction the moment we ſhould paſs the border, when he could run him through the body without fear of the conſequence. — This ſcene paſſed in preſence of

lieutenant Liſmahago, who encouraged Clinker to hazard a thruſt of cold iron with his antagoniſt. "Cold iron (cried Humphry) I ſhall never uſe againſt "the life of any human creature; but I am ſo far "from being afraid of his cold iron, that I ſhall uſe "nothing in my defence but a good cudgel, which "ſhall always be at his ſervice." In the mean time the fair cauſe of this contest, Mrs. Winifred Jenkins, ſeemed overwhelmed with affliction, and Mr. Clinker acted much on the reſerve, though he did not preſume to find fault with her conduct.

The diſpute between the two rivals was ſoon brought to a very unexpected iſſue. Among our fellow-lodgers at Berwick, was a couple from London, bound to Edinburgh, on the voyage of matrimony. The female was the daughter and heireſs of a pawn-broker deceaſed, who had given her guardians the ſlip, and put herſelf under the tuition of a tall Hibernian, who had conducted her thus far in queſt of a clergyman to unite them in marriage, without the formalities required by the law of England. I know not how the lover had behaved on the road, ſo as to decline in the favour of his inamorata; but in all probability, Dutton perceived a coldneſs on her ſide, which encouraged him to whiſper, it was a pity ſhe ſhould have caſt her affections upon a taylor, which he affirmed the Iriſhman to be. This diſcovery completed her diſguſt, of which my man taking the advantage, began to recommend himſelf to her good graces, and the ſmooth-tongued raſcal found no difficulty to inſinuate himſelf into the place of her heart, from which the other had been diſcarded. — Their reſolution was immediately taken. In the morning, before day, while poor Teague lay ſnoring a-bed, his indefatigable rival ordered a poſt-chaiſe, and ſet out with the lady for Coldſtream, a few miles up the

Tweed, where there was a parſon who dealt in this branch of commerce, and there they were nooſed, before the Iriſhman ever dreamt of the matter. But when he got up at ſix o'clock, and found the bird was flown, he made ſuch a noiſe as alarmed the whole houſe. One of the firſt perſons he encountered, was the poſtilion returned from Coldſtream, where he had been witneſs to the marriage, and, over and above a handſome gratuity, had received a bride's favour, which he now wore in his cap. — When the forſaken lover underſtood they were actually married, and ſet out for London, and that Dutton had diſcovered to the lady, that he (the Hibernian) was a taylor, he had like to have run diſtracted. He tore the ribbon from the fellow's cap, and beat it about his ears. He ſwore he would purſue him to the gates of Hell, and ordered a poſt chaiſe and four to be got ready as ſoon as poſſible; but, recollecting that his finances would not admit of this way of travelling, he was obliged to countermand this order.

For my part, I knew nothing at all of what had happened, till the poſtilion brought me the keys of my trunk and portmanteau, which he had received from Dutton, who ſent me his reſpects, hoping I would excuſe him for his abrupt departure, as it was a ſtep upon which his fortune depended—Before I had time to make my uncle acquainted with this event, the Iriſhman burſt into my chamber, without any introduction, exclaiming—"By my ſoul, your "ſarvant has robbed me of five thouſand pounds, and "I'll have ſatisfaction, if I ſhould be hanged to-"morrow.—" When I aſked him who he was, "My name (ſaid he), is Maſter Macloughlin—but "it ſhould be Leighlin O'Neale, for I am come from "Tir-Owen the Great; and ſo I am as good a "gentleman as any in Ireland; and that rogue, your

"ſarvant, ſaid I was a taylor, which was as big a "lie as if he had called me the pope—I'm a man of "fortune, and have ſpent all I had; and ſo being in "diſtreſs, Mr. Coſhgrave, the faſhioner in Shuffolk-"ſtreet, tuck me out, and made me his own private "ſhecretary: by the ſame token, I was the laſt he "bailed; for his friends obliged him to tie himſelf "up, that he would bail no more above ten pounds; "for why? becaaſe as how he could not refuſe any "body that aſked, and therefore in time would have "robbed himſelf of his whole fortune, and, if he had "lived long at that rate, muſt have died bankrupt "very ſoon—and ſo I made my addreſſes to Miſs "Skinner, a young lady of five thouſand pounds for-"tune, who agreed to take me for better nor worſe; "and, to be ſure, this day would have put me in poſ-"ſeſſion, if it had not been for that rogue, your ſar-"vant, who came like a tief, and ſtole away my pro-"perty, and made her believe I was a taylor, and "that ſhe was going to marry the ninth part of a "man: but the devil burn my ſoul, if ever I catch "him on the mountains of Tulloghobegly, if I don't "ſhew him that I'm nine times as good a man as he, "or e'er a bug of his country."

When he had rung out his firſt alarm, I told him I was ſorry he had allowed himſelf to be ſo jockied, but it was no buſineſs of mine; and that the fellow who robbed him of his bride, had likewiſe robbed me of my ſervant—"Didn't I tell you, then (cried "he), that rogue was his true Chriſtian name.—"Oh, if I had but one fair truſt with him upon the "ſod, I'd give him leave to brag all the reſt of his "life."

My uncle hearing the noiſe, came in, and being informed of this adventure, began to comfort Mr. O'Neale for the lady's elopement; obſerving that he

seemed to have had a lucky escape; that it was better she should elope before, than after marriage—The Hibernian was of a very different opinion. He said, "if he had been once married, she might have "eloped as soon as she pleased; he would have taken "care that she should not have carried her fortune "along with her.—Ah (said he), she's a Judas Iscariot, and has betrayed me with a kiss; and, like "Judas, she carried the bag, and has not left me money enough to bear my expences back to London; "and so as I'm come to this pass, and the rogue that "was the occasion of it has left you without a servant, "you may put me in his place; and, by Jasus, it is "the best thing you can do.—" I begged to be excused, declaring I could put up with any inconvenience rather than treat as a footman the descendant of Tir-Owen the Great. I advised him to return to his friend, Mr. Cosgrave, and take his passage from Newcastle by sea, towards which I made him a small present, and he retired, seemingly resigned to his evil fortune. I have taken upon trial a Scotchman, called Archy M'Alpin, an old soldier, whose last master, a colonel, lately died at Berwick. The fellow is old and withered; but he has been recommended to me for his fidelity, by Mrs. Humphreys, a very good sort of a woman, who keeps the inn at Tweedmouth, and is much respected by all the travellers on this road.

Clinker, without doubt, thinks himself happy in the removal of a dangerous rival, and he is too good a Christian to repine at Dutton's success. Even Mrs. Jenkins will have reason to congratulate herself upon this event, when she coolly reflects upon the matter; for howsoever she was forced from her poise for a season by snares laid for her vanity, Humphry is certainly the north-star to which the needle of her af-

fection would have pointed at the long run. At preſent, the ſame vanity is exceedingly mortified, upon finding herſelf abandoned by her new admirer, in favour of another inamorata. She received the news with a violent burſt of laughter, which ſoon brought on a fit of crying; and this gave the finiſhing blow to the patience of her miſtreſs, which had held out beyond all expectation. She now opened all thoſe flood-gates of reprehenſion, which had been ſhut ſo long. She not only reproached her with her levity and indiſcretion, but attacked her on the ſcore of religion, declaring roundly that ſhe was in a ſtate of apoſtacy and reprobation; and, finally, threatened to ſend her a-packing at this extremity of the kingdom. All the family interceded for poor Winifred, not even excepting her ſlighted ſwain, Mr. Clinker, who, on his knees, implored and obtained her pardon.

There was, however, another conſideration that gave Mrs. Tabitha ſome diſturbance. At Newcaſtle, the ſervants had been informed by ſome wag, that there was nothing to eat in Scotland but *oat-meal* and *ſheep's-heads*; and lieutenant Liſmahago being conſulted, what he ſaid ſerved rather to confirm than to refute the report. Our aunt being appriſed of this circumſtance, very gravely adviſed her brother to provide a ſumpter horſe with ſtore of hams, tongues, bread, biſcuit, and other articles for our ſubſiſtence in the courſe of our peregrination, and Mr. Bramble as gravely replied, that he would take the hint into conſideration: but, finding no ſuch proviſion was made, ſhe now revived the propoſal, obſerving that there was a tolerable market at Berwick, where we might be ſupplied; and that my man's horſe would ſerve as a beaſt of burden—The 'ſquire, ſhrugging up his ſhoulders, eyed her aſkance with a look of ineffable contempt; and, after ſome pauſe, "Siſter (ſaid he), I can hardly perſuade "myſelf you are ſerious." She was ſo little acquaint-

ed with the geography of the iſland, that ſhe imagined we could not go to Scotland but by ſea; and, after we had paſſed through the town of Berwick, when he told her we were upon Scottiſh ground, ſhe could hardly believe the aſſertion—If the truth muſt be told, the South Britons in general are woefully ignorant in this particular. What between want of curioſity and traditional ſarcaſms, the effect of ancient animoſity, the people at the other end of the iſland know as little of Scotland as of Japan.

If I had never been in Wales, I ſhould have been more ſtruck with the manifeſt difference in appearance betwixt the peaſants and commonalty on different ſides of the Tweed. The boors of Northumberland are luſty fellows, freſh-complexioned, cleanly, and well-clothed; but the labourers in Scotland are generally lank, lean, hard-featured, ſallow, ſoiled, and ſhabby, and their little pinched blue caps have a beggarly effect. The cattle are much in the ſame ſtyle with their drivers, meagre, ſtunted, and ill equipt. When I talked to my uncle on this ſubject, he ſaid, "Though all the Scottiſh hinds would not bear to be "compared with thoſe of the rich counties of South "Britain, they would ſtand very well in competition "with the peaſants in France, Italy, and Savoy "—not to mention the mountaineers of Wales, and "the redſhanks of Ireland."

We entered Scotland by a frightful moor of ſixteen miles, which promiſes very little for the interior parts of the kingdom; but the proſpect mended as we advanced. Paſſing through Dunbar, which is a neat little town, ſituated on the ſea-ſide, we lay at a country inn, where our entertainment far exceeded our expectation; but for this we cannot give the Scots credit, as the landlord is a native of England. Yeſterday we dined at Haddington, which has been

a place of ſome conſideration, but is now gone to decay; and in the evening arrived at this metropolis, of which I can ſay very little. It is very romantic, from its ſituation on the declivity of a hill, having a fortified caſtle at the top, and a royal palace at the bottom. The firſt thing that ſtrikes the noſe of a ſtranger ſhall be nameleſs; but what firſt ſtrikes the eye, is the unconſcionable height of the houſes, which generally riſe to five, ſix, ſeven, and eight ſtories, and in ſome places (as I am aſſured) to twelve. This manner of building, attended with numberleſs inconveniences, muſt have been originally owing to want of room. Certain it is, the town ſeems to be full of people; but their looks, their language, and their cuſtoms, are ſo different from ours, that I can hardly believe myſelf in Great-Britain.

The inn at which we put up (if it may be ſo called) was ſo filthy and diſagreeable in all reſpects, that my uncle began to fret, and his gouty ſymptoms to recur —Recollecting, however, that he had a letter of recommendation to one Mr. Mitchelſon, a lawyer, he ſent it by his ſervant, with a compliment, importing, that he would wait upon him next day in perſon; but that gentleman viſited us immediately, and inſiſted upon our going to his own houſe, until he could provide lodgings for our accommodation. We gladly accepted of his invitation, and repaired to his houſe, where we were treated with equal elegance and hoſpitality, to the utter confuſion of our aunt, whoſe prejudices, though beginning to give way, were not yet entirely removed. To-day, by the aſſiſtance of our friend, we are ſettled in convenient lodgings, up four pair of ſtairs, in the High-ſtreet, the fourth ſtory being, in this city, reckoned more genteel than the firſt. The air is, in all probability, the better; but it requires good lungs to breathe it at this diſtance above

the surface of the earth.—While I do remain above it, whether higher or lower, provided I breathe at all,

I shall ever be,

dear Phillips, yours,

July 18. J. MELFORD.

To Dr. LEWIS.

DEAR LEWIS,

THAT part of Scotland contiguous to Berwick, nature seems to have intended as a barrier between two hostile nations. It is a brown desart of considerable extent, that produces nothing but heath and fern; and what rendered it the more dreary when we passed, there was a thick fog that hindered us from seeing above twenty yards from the carriage—My sister began to make wry faces, and use her smelling-bottle; Liddy looked blank, and Mrs. Jenkins dejected; but in a few hours these clouds were dissipated; the sea appeared upon our right, and on the left the mountains retired a little, leaving an agreeable plain betwixt them and the beach; but, what surprised us all, this plain, to the extent of several miles, was covered with as fine wheat as ever I saw in the most fertile parts of South Britain——This plentiful crop is raised in the open field, without any inclosure, or other manure than the *alga marina*, or sea-weed, which abounds on this coast; a circumstance that shews the soil and climate are favourable, but that agriculture in this country is not yet brought to that perfection which it has attained in England. In-

cloſures would not only keep the grounds warm, and the ſeveral fields diſtinct, but would alſo protect the crop from the high winds, which are ſo frequent in this part of the iſland.

Dunbar is well ſituated for trade, and has a curious baſon, where ſhips of ſmall burthen may be perfectly ſecure; but there is little appearance of buſineſs in the place—From thence, all the way to Edinburgh, there is a continual ſucceſſion of fine ſeats, belonging to noblemen and gentlemen; and as each is ſurrounded by its own parks and plantation, they produce a very pleaſing effect in a country which lies otherwiſe open and expoſed. At Dunbar there is a noble park, with a lodge, belonging to the Duke of Roxborough, where Oliver Cromwell had his head-quarters, when Leſley, at the head of a Scotch army, took poſſeſſion of the mountains in the neighbourhood, and hampered him in ſuch a manner, that he would have been obliged to embark and get away by ſea, had not the fanaticiſm of the enemy forfeited the advantage which they had obtained by their general's conduct—Their miniſters, by exhortation, prayer, aſſurance, and prophecy, inſtigated them to go down and ſlay the Philiſtines in Gilgal, and they quitted their ground accordingly, notwithſtanding all that Leſley could do to reſtrain the madneſs of their enthuſiaſm——When Oliver ſaw them in motion, he exclaimed, "Praiſed be the "Lord, he hath delivered them into the hands of his "ſervant!" and ordered them to ſing a pſalm of thankſgiving, while they advanced in order to the plain, where the Scots were routed with great ſlaughter.

In the neighbourhood of Haddington, there is a gentleman's houſe, in the building of which, and the improvements about it, he is ſaid to have expended forty thouſand pounds: but I cannot ſay I was much

pleaſed with either the architecture or the ſituation; though it has in front a paſtoral ſtream, the banks of which are laid out in a very agreeable manner. I intended to pay my reſpects to lord Elibank, whom I had the honour to know at London many years ago. He lives in this part of Lothian; but was gone to the North on a viſit.—You have often heard me mention this nobleman, whom I have long revered for his humanity and univerſal intelligence, over and above the entertainment ariſing from the originality of his character.—At Muſſelburgh, however, I had the good fortune to drink tea with my old friend Mr. Cardonel; and at his houſe I met with Dr. C——, the parſon of the pariſh, whoſe humour and converſation inflamed me with a deſire of being better acquainted with his perſon—I am not at all ſurpriſed that theſe Scots make their way in every quarter of the globe.

This place is but four miles from Edinburgh, towards which we proceeded along the ſea-ſhore, upon a firm bottom of ſmooth ſand, which the tide had left uncovered in its retreat——Edinburgh, from this avenue, is not ſeen to much advantage—We had only an imperfect view of the caſtle and upper parts of the town, which varied inceſſantly according to the inflexions of the road, and exhibited the appearance of detached ſpires and turrets belonging to ſome magnificent edifice in ruins. The palace of Holyrood-houſe ſtands on the left, as you enter the Canon-gate—This is a ſtreet continued from hence to the gate called Nether-Bow, which is now taken away; ſo that there is no interruption for a long mile from the bottom to the top of the hill, on which the caſtle ſtands in a moſt imperial ſituation——Conſidering its fine pavement, its width, and the lofty houſes on each ſide, this would be undoubtedly one of the no-

bleſt ſtreets in Europe, if an ugly maſs of mean buildings, called the Lucken-Booths, had not thruſt itſelf, by what accident I know not, into the middle of the way, like Middle-Row in Holborn. The city ſtands upon two hills, and the bottom between them; and, with all its defects, may very well paſs for the capital of a moderate kingdom—It is full of people, and continually reſounds with the noiſe of coaches, and other carriages, for luxury as well as commerce. As far as I can perceive, here is no want of proviſions—The beef and mutton are as delicate here as in Wales; the ſea affords plenty of good fiſh; the bread is remarkably fine; and the water is excellent, though I'm afraid not in ſufficient quantity to anſwer all the purpoſes of cleanlineſs and convenience; articles in which, it muſt be allowed, our fellow-ſubjects are a little defective—The water is brought in leaden pipes from a mountain in the neighbourhood, to a ciſtern on the Caſtle-hill, from whence it is diſtributed to public conduits in different parts of the city—From theſe it is carried in barrels, on the backs of male and female porters, up two, three, four, five, ſix, ſeven, and eight pair of ſtairs, for the uſe of particular families—Every ſtory is a complete houſe, occupied by a ſeparate family; and the ſtair, being common to them all, is generally left in a very filthy condition; a man muſt tread with great circumſpection to get ſafe houſed with unpolluted ſhoes—Nothing can form a ſtronger contraſt, than the difference betwixt the outſide and inſide of the door; for the good women of this metropolis are remarkably nice in the ornaments and propriety of their apartments, as if they were reſolved to transfer the imputation from the individual to the public. You are no ſtranger to their method of diſcharging all their impurities from their windows, at a certain hour

of the night, as the cuſtom is in Spain, Portugal, and ſome part of France and Italy—a practice to which I can by no means be reconciled; for notwithſtanding all the care that is taken by their ſcavengers to remove this nuiſance every morning by break of day, enough ſtill remains to offend the eyes, as well as other organs of thoſe whom uſe has not hardened againſt all delicacy of ſenſation.

The inhabitants ſeem inſenſible to theſe impreſſions, and are apt to imagine the diſguſt that we avow is little better than affectation; but they ought to have ſome compaſſion for ſtrangers, who have not been uſed to this kind of ſufferance; and conſider, whether it may not be worth while to take ſome pains to vindicate themſelves from the reproach that, on this account, they bear among their neighbours. As to the ſurprizing height of their houſes, it is abſurd in many reſpects; but in one particular light I cannot view it without horror; that is, the dreadful ſituation of all the families above, in caſe the common ſtair-caſe ſhould be rendered impaſſable by a fire in the lower ſtories—In order to prevent the ſhocking conſequences that muſt attend ſuch an accident, it would be a right meaſure to open doors of communication from one houſe to another, on every ſtory, by which the people might fly from ſuch a terrible viſitation. In all parts of the world, we ſee the force of habit prevailing over all the dictates of convenience and ſagacity—All the people of buſineſs at Edinburgh, and even the genteel company, may be ſeen ſtanding in crowds every day, from one to two in the afternoon, in the open ſtreet, at a place where formerly ſtood a market-croſs, which (by the bye) was a curious piece of Gothic architecture, ſtill to be ſeen in lord Somerville's garden in

this neighbourhood—I ſay, the people ſtand in the open ſtreet from the force of cuſtom, rather than move a few yards to an Exchange that ſtands empty on one ſide, or to the Parliament-cloſe on the other, which is a noble ſquare, adorned with a fine equeſtrian ſtatue of king Charles II.—The company thus aſſembled, are entertained with a variety of tunes, played upon a ſet of bells, fixed in a ſteeple hard-by—As theſe bells are well-toned, and the muſician, who has a ſalary from the city for playing upon them with keys, is no bad performer, the entertainment is really agreeable, and very ſtriking to the ears of a ſtranger.

The public inns of Edinburgh are ſtill worſe than thoſe of London; but by means of a worthy gentleman, to whom I was recommended, we have got decent lodgings in the houſe of a widow gentlewoman, of the name of Lockhart; and here I ſhall ſtay until I have ſeen every thing that is remarkable in and about this capital. I now begin to feel the good effects of exerciſe——I eat like a farmer, ſleep from midnight till eight in the morning without interruption, and enjoy a conſtant tide of ſpirits, equally diſtant from inanition and exceſs; but whatever ebbs or flows my conſtitution may undergo, my heart will ſtill declare that I am,

Dear Lewis,

Your affectionate friend and ſervant,

Edinburgh, July 18. MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Mrs. MARY JONES, at Brambleton-Hall.

DEAR MARY,

THE 'squire has been so kind as to rap my bit of nonsense under the kiver of his own sheet—O, Mary Jones! Mary Jones! I have had trials and trembulation. God help me! I have been a vixin and a griffin these many days—Sattin has had power to temp me in the shape of van Ditton, the young squire's wally de shamble; but by God's grease he did not purvail—I thoft as how there was no arm in going to a play at Newcastle, with my hair dressed in the Parish fashion; and as for the trifle of paint, he said as how my complexion wanted rouch, and so I let him put it on with a little Spanish owl; but a mischievous mob of colliers, and such promiscuous ribble rabble, that could bear no smut but their own, attacked us in the street, and called me *boar* and *painted Issabel*, and splashed my close, and spoiled me a complete set of blond lace triple ruffles, not a pin the worse for the ware—They cost me seven good fillings to lady Griskin's woman at London.

When I axed Mr. Clinker what they meant by calling me Issabel, he put the pyebill into my hand, and I read of van Issabel a painted harlot, that vas thrown out of a vindore, and the dogs came and licked her blood—But I am no harlot; and, with God's blessing, no dog shall have my poor blood to lick: marry, Heaven forbid, amen! As for Ditton, after all his courting, and his compliment, he stole away

an Iriſhman's bride, and took a French leave of me and his maſter; but I value not his going a farting; but I have had hanger on his account—Miſtreſs ſcould-ed like mad; thof I have the comfit that all the family took my part, and even Mr. Clinker pleaded for me on his bended knee; thof, God he knows, he had reaſons enuff to complain; but he's a good ſole, abounding with Chriſtian meekneſs, and one day will meet with his reward.

And now, dear Mary, we have got to Haddinborough, among the Scots, who are civil enuff for our money, thof I don't ſpeak their lingo—But they ſhould not go for to impoſe upon foreigners; for the bills in their houſes ſay, they have different *eaſements* to let; and behold there is narro geaks in the whole kingdom, nor any thing for poor ſarvants, but a barrel with a pair of tongs thrown acroſs; and all the chairs in the family are emptied into this here barrel once a day; and at ten o'clock at night the whole cargo is flung out of a back windore that looks into ſome ſtreet or lane, and the maid calls *gardy loo* to the paſſengers, which ſignifies, *Lord have mercy upon you!* and this is done every night in every houſe in Haddinborough; ſo you may gueſs, Mary Jones, what a ſweet ſavour comes from ſuch a number of profuming pans; but they ſay it is wholeſome, and, truly, I believe it is; for being in the vapours, and thinking of Iſſabel and Mr. Clinker, I was going into a fit of aſtericks, when this ſiff, ſaving your preſence, took me by the noſe ſo powerfully that I ſneezed three times, and found myſelf wonderfully refreſhed; and this to be ſure is the raiſin why there are no fits in Haddinborrough.

I was likewiſe made believe, that there was nothing to be had but *oatmeal* and *ſeeps-heads*; but if I hadn't been a fool, I mought have known there

could be no *heads* without kerkaſſes——This very bleſſed day I dined upon a delicate leg of Velſh mutton and cully-flower; and as for the oat-meal, I leave that to the ſarvants of the country, which are pore drudges, many of them without ſhoes or ſtockings—Mr. Clinker tells me here is a great call of the goſpel; but I wiſh ſome of our family be not fallen off from the rite way—O, if I was given to tail-baring, I have my own ſecrets to diſcover—— There has been a deal of huggling and flurtation betwixt miſtreſs and an ould Scots officer called Kifmycago. He looks for all the orld like the ſcarecrow that our gardener ſet up to frite away the ſparrows; and what will come of it, the Lord nows; but come what will, it ſhall never be ſaid that I menchioned a ſyllabub of the matter—Remember me kindly to Saul and the kitten—I hope they got the horn buck, and will put it to a good yuſe, which is the conſtant prayer of,

Dear Molly,

Your loving Friend,

Addingborough, July 18. WIN. JENKINS.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. of Jeſus College, Oxon.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

IF I ſtay much longer at Edinburgh, I ſhall be changed into a down-right Caledonian—My uncle obſerves, that I have already acquired ſomething of the country accent. The people here are ſo ſocial and attentive in their civilities to ſtrangers, that I am

inſenſibly ſucked into the channel of their manners and cuſtoms, although they are in fact much more different from ours than you can imagine—That difference, however, which ſtruck me very much at my firſt arrival, I now hardly perceive, and my ear is perfectly reconciled to the Scotch accent, which I find even agreeable in the mouth of a pretty woman—It is a ſort of Doric dialect, which gives an idea of amiable ſimplicity——You cannot imagine how we have been careſſed and feaſted in the *good town of Edinburgh*, of which we are become free denizens and guild brothers, by the ſpecial favour of the magiſtracy.

I had a whimſical commiſſion from Bath to a citizen of this metropolis—Quin underſtanding our intention to viſit Edinburgh, pulled out a guinea, and deſired the favour I would drink it at a tavern with a particular friend and bottle-companion of his, one Mr. R— C—, a lawyer of this city—I charged myſelf with the commiſſion, and, taking the guinea, "You ſee (ſaid I) I have pocketed your bounty." "Yes (replied Quin, laughing); and a head-ach into "the bargain, if you drink fair." I made uſe of this introduction to Mr. C——, who received me with open arms, and gave me the rendezvous, according to the cartel. He had provided a company of jolly fellows, among whom I found myſelf extremely happy; and did Mr. C—— and Quin all the juſtice in my power: but, alas, I was no more than a tyro among a troop of veterans, who had compaſſion upon my youth, and conveyed me home in the morning, by what means I know not—Quin was miſtaken, however, as to the head-ach; the claret was too good to treat me ſo roughly.

While Mr. Bramble holds conferences with the graver literati of the place, and our females are en-

tertained at visits by the Scotch ladies, who are the best and kindest creatures upon earth, I pass my time among the bucks at Edinburgh; who, with a great share of spirit and vivacity, have a certain shrewdness and self-command that is not often found among their neighbours, in the high-day of youth and exultation—Not a hint escapes a Scotchman that can be interpreted into offence by any individual in the company, and national reflections are never heard—In this particular, I must own, we are both unjust and ungrateful to the Scots; for as far as I am able to judge, they have a real esteem for the natives of South-Britain, and never mention our country but with expressions of regard—Nevertheless they are far from being servile imitators of our modes and fashionable vices. All their customs and regulations of public and private œconomy, of business and diversion, are in their own style. This remarkably predominates in their looks, their dress, and manner, their music, and even their cookery. Our 'squire declares, that he knows not another people upon earth so strongly marked with a national character—Now we are upon the article of cookery, I must own some of their dishes are savoury, and even delicate; but I am not yet Scotchman enough to relish their singed sheep's-head and haggis, which were provided at our request, one day at Mr. Mitchelson's, where we dined—The first put me in mind of the history of Congo, in which I had read of Negroes' heads sold publicly in the markets; the last, being a mess of minced lights, livers, suet, oatmeal, onions, and pepper, inclosed in a sheep's stomach, had a very sudden effect upon mine, and the delicate Mrs. Tabby changed colour; when the cause of our disgust was instantaneously removed at the nod of our entertainer. The Scots, in general, are attached to this composition, with a sort

of national fondneſs, as well as to their oat-meal bread; which is preſented at every table, in thin triangular cakes, baked upon a plate of iron, called a girdle; and theſe, many of the natives, even in the higher ranks of life, prefer to wheaten bread, which they have here in perfection— You know we uſed to vex poor Murray of Baliol-college, by aſking, if there was really no fruit but turnips in Scotland?— Sure enough, I have ſeen turnips make their appearance, not as a deſert but by way of *hors d'œuvres*, or whets, as radiſhes are ſerved up betwixt more ſubſtantial diſhes in France and Italy; but it muſt be obſerved, that the turnips of this country are as much ſuperior in ſweetneſs, delicacy, and flavour, to thoſe of England, as a muſk-melon is to the ſtock of a common cabbage. They are ſmall and conical, of a yellowiſh colour, with a very thin ſkin; and over and above their agreeable taſte, are valuable for their antiſcorbutic quality — As to the fruit now in ſeaſon, ſuch as cherries, gooſeberries, and currants, there is no want of them at Edinburgh; and in the gardens of ſome gentlemen, who live in this neighbourhood, there is now a very favourable appearance of apricots, peaches, nectarines, and even grapes; nay, I have ſeen a very fine ſhew of pine-apples within a few miles of this metropolis. Indeed we have no reaſon to be ſurpriſed at theſe particulars, when we conſider how little difference there is, in fact, betwixt this climate and that of London.

All the remarkable places in the city and its avenues, for ten miles round, we have viſited much to our ſatisfaction. In the Caſtle are ſome royal apartments, where the ſovereign occaſionally reſided; and here are carefully preſerved the regalia of the kingdom, conſiſting of a crown, ſaid to be of great value, a ſceptre, and a ſword of ſtate, adorned with jewels—

Of theſe ſymbols of ſovereignty, the people are exceedingly jealous—A report being ſpread, during the ſitting of the Union-parliament, that they were removed to London, ſuch a tumult aroſe, that the lord commiſſioner would have been torn in pieces, if he had not produced them for the ſatisfaction of the populace.

The palace of Holyrood houſe is an elegant piece of architecture, but ſunk in an obſcure and, as I take it, unwholeſome bottom, where one would imagine it had been placed on purpoſe to be concealed. The apartments are lofty, but unfurniſhed; and as for the pictures of the Scottiſh kings, from Fergus I. to king William, they are paultry daubings, moſtly by the ſame hand, painted either from the imagination, or porters hired to ſit for the purpoſe. All the diverſions of London we enjoy at Edinburgh, in a ſmall compaſs. Here is a well-conducted concert, in which ſeveral gentlemen perform on different inſtruments—The Scots are all muſicians—Every man you meet plays on the flute, the violin, or violoncello; and there is one nobleman, whoſe compoſitions are univerſally admired—Our company of actors is very tolerable; and a ſubſcription is now on foot for building a new theatre; but their aſſemblies pleaſe me above all other public exhibitions.

We have been at the hunters' ball, where I was really aſtoniſhed to ſee ſuch a number of fine women—The Engliſh who have never croſſed the Tweed, imagine erroneouſly, that the Scotch ladies are not remarkable for perſonal attractions; but I can declare with a ſafe conſcience, I never ſaw ſo many handſome females together, as were aſſembled on this occaſion. At the Leith races, the beſt company comes hither from the remoter provinces; ſo that I ſuppoſe, we had all the beauty of the kingdom con-

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centrated, as it were, into one focus; which was indeed so vehement, that my heart could hardly resist its power—Between friends, it has sustained some damage from the bright eyes of the charming miss R——n, whom I had the honour to dance with at the ball — The countess of Melvile attracted all eyes, and the admiration of all present — She was accompanied by the agreeable miss Grieve, who made many conquests; nor did my sister Liddy pass unnoticed in the assembly—She is become a toast at Edinburgh, by the name of the fair Cambrian, and has already been the occasion of much wine shed; but the poor girl met with an accident at the ball, which has given us great disturbance.

A young gentleman, the express image of that rascal Wilson, went up to ask her to dance a minuet; and his sudden appearance shocked her so much, that she fainted away— I call Wilson a rascal, because if he had been really a gentleman, with honorable intentions, he would have, ere now, appeared in his own character — I must own, my blood boils with indignation when I think of that fellow's presumption; and Heaven confound me if I don't — But I won't be so womanish as to rail — Time will, perhaps, furnish occasion — Thank God, the cause of Liddy's disorder remains a secret. The lady directress of the ball, thinking she was overcome by the heat of the place, had her conveyed to another room, where she soon recovered so well, as to return and join in the country-dances, in which the Scotch lasses acquit themselves with such spirit and agility, as put their partners to the height of their mettle—I believe our aunt, Mrs. Tabitha, had entertained hopes of being able to do some execution among the cavaliers at this assembly—She had been several days in consultation with milliners and mantua-makers, preparing

for the occaſion, at which ſhe made her appearance in a full ſuit of damaſk, ſo thick and heavy, that the ſight of it alone, at this ſeaſon of the year, was ſufficient to draw drops of ſweat from any man of ordinary imagination — She danced one minuet with our friend, Mr. Mitchelſon, who favoured her ſo far, in the ſpirit of hoſpitality and politeneſs; and ſhe was led out a ſecond time by the young laird of Ballymawhawple, who, coming in by accident, could not readily find any other partner; but as the firſt was a married man, and the ſecond paid no particular homage to her charms, which were alſo overlooked by the reſt of the company, ſhe became diſſatisfied and cenſorious — At ſupper, ſhe obſerved that the Scotch gentlemen made a very good figure, when they were a little improved by travelling; and therefore it was pity they did not all take the benefit of going abroad — She ſaid the women were awkward, maſculine creatures; that, in dancing, they lifted their legs like ſo many colts; that they had no idea of graceful motion, and put on their cloaths in a frightful manner: but if the truth muſt be told, Tabby herſelf was the moſt ridiculous figure, and the worſt dreſſed of the whole aſſembly—The neglect of the male ſex rendered her malcontent and peeviſh; ſhe now found fault with every thing at Edinburgh, and teazed her brother to leave the place, when ſhe was ſuddenly reconciled to it on a religious conſideration—There is a ſect of fanatics, who have ſeparated themſelves from the eſtabliſhed Kirk, under the name of Seceders — They acknowledge no earthly head of the church, reject lay-patronage, and maintain the Methodiſt doctrines of the new birth, the new light, the efficacy of grace, the inſufficiency of works, and the operation of the ſpirit. Mrs. Tabitha, attended by Humphry Clinker, was introduced to

one of their conventicles, where they both received much edification; and ſhe has had the good fortune to become acquainted with a pious Chriſtian, called Mr. Moffat, who is very powerful in prayer, and often aſſiſts her in private exerciſes of devotion.

I never ſaw ſuch a concourſe of genteel company at any races in England, as appeared on the courſe of Leith—Hard by, in the fields called the Links, the citizens of Edinburgh divert themſelves at a game called golf, in which they uſe a curious kind of bats, tipt with horn, and ſmall elaſtic balls of leather, ſtuffed with feathers, rather leſs than tennis balls, but of a much harder conſiſtence—This they ſtrike with ſuch force and dexterity from one hole to another, that they will fly to an incredible diſtance. Of this diverſion the Scots are ſo fond, that when the weather will permit, you may ſee a multitude of all ranks, from the ſenator of juſtice to the loweſt tradeſman, mingled together in their ſhirts, and following the balls with the utmoſt eagerneſs—Among others I was ſhewn one particular ſet of golfers, the youngeſt of whom was turned of fourſcore—They were all gentlemen of independent fortunes, who had amuſed themſelves with this paſtime for the beſt part of a century, without having ever felt the leaſt alarm from ſickneſs or diſguſt; and they never went to bed, without having each the beſt part of a gallon of claret in his belly. Such uninterrupted exerciſe, co-operating with the keen air from the ſea, muſt, without all doubt, keep the appetite always on edge, and ſteel the conſtitution againſt all the common attacks of diſtemper.

The Leith races gave occaſion to another entertainment of a very ſingular nature—There is at Edinburgh a ſociety or corporation of errand boys, called Cawdies, who ply in the ſtreets at night with

paper lanthorns, and are very ſerviceable in carrying meſſages—Theſe fellows, though ſhabby in their appearance, and rudely familiar in their addreſs, are wonderfully acute, and ſo noted for fidelity, that there is no inſtance of a Cawdy's having betrayed his truſt—Such is their intelligence, that they know not only every individual in the place, but alſo every ſtranger by that time he has been four-and-twenty hours in Edinburgh; and no tranſaction, even the moſt private, can eſcape their notice. They are particularly famous for their dexterity in executing one of the functions of Mercury; though, for my own part, I never employed them in this department of buſineſs—Had I occaſion for any ſervice of this nature, my own man, Archy M'Alpine, is as well qualified as e'er a Cawdie in Edinburgh; and I am much miſtaken, if he has not been heretofore of their fraternity. Be that as it may, they reſolved to give a dinner and a ball at Leith, to which they formally invited all the young noblemen and gentlemen that were at the races; and this invitation was reinforced by an aſſurance that all the celebrated ladies of pleaſure would grace the entertainment with their company.—I received a card on this occaſion, and went thither with half a dozen of my acquaintance.—In a large hall the cloth was laid on a long range of tables joined together, and here the company ſeated themſelves, to the number of about fourſcore, lords, and lairds, and other gentlemen, courtezans and cawdies mingled together, as the ſlaves and their maſters were in the time of the Saturnalia in ancient Rome.—The toaſtmaſter, who ſat at the upper end, was one Cawdie Fraſer, a veteran pimp, diſtinguiſhed for his humour and ſagacity, well known and much reſpected in his profeſſion by all the gueſts, male and female, that were here aſſembled.——He had beſpoke the dinner and the wine; he had taken care

that all his brethren ſhould appear in decent apparel and clean linen; and he himſelf wore a periwig with three tails, in honour of the feſtival —I aſſure you the banquet was both elegant and plentiful, and ſeaſoned with a thouſand ſallies, that promoted a general ſpirit of mirth and good-humour.—After the deſert, Mr. Fraſer propoſed the following toaſts, which I don't pretend to explain.—"The beſt in Chriſten-"dom."—"Gibb's contract."—"The beggar's ben-"niſon."—"King and Kirk."—"Great-Britain and "Ireland."——Then filling a bumper, and turning to me, "Meſter Malford (ſaid he), may a' unkind-"neſs ceaſe betwixt John Bull and his ſiſter Moggy."—The next perſon he ſingled out was a nobleman who had been long abroad.—"Ma lord (cried Fraſer), "here's a bumper to all thoſe noblemen who have "virtue enough to ſpend their rents in their ain coun-"tray."—He afterwards addreſſed himſelf to a member of parliament in theſe words:—"Meſter—I'm "ſure ye'll ha nae objection to my drinking, Diſgrace "and dule to ilka Scot that ſells his conſcience and his "vote."—He diſcharged a third ſarcaſm at a perſon very gaily dreſſed, who had riſen from ſmall beginnings, and made a conſiderable fortune at play.——Filling his glaſs, and calling him by name, "Lang "life (ſaid he) to the wylie loon that gangs a-field "with a toom poke at his lunzie, and comes hame "with a ſackful of ſiller."——All theſe toaſts being received with loud burſts of applauſe, Mr. Fraſer called for pint glaſſes, and filled his own to the brim; then ſtanding up, and all his brethren following his example, "Ma lords and gentlemen (cried he), here "is a cup of thanks for the great and undeſerved ho-"nour you have done your poor errand-boys this "day."——So ſaying, he and they drank off their glaſſes in a trice, and, quitting their ſeats, took their

ſtation each behind one of the other gueſts; exclaiming, "Noo we're your honours cawdies again."

The nobleman who had bore the firſt brunt of Mr. Fraſer's ſatire, objected to his abdication. He ſaid, as the company was aſſembled by invitation from the cawdies, he expected they were to be entertained at their expence. "By no means, my lord (cried "Fraſer), I wad na be guilty of ſic preſumption for "the wide warld—I never affronted a gentleman "ſince I was born; and ſure at this age, I wonnot "offer an indignity to ſic an honourable convention." "Well (ſaid his lordſhip), as you have expended "ſome wit, you have a right to ſave your money. "You have given me good counſel, and I take it in "good part. As you have voluntarily quitted your "ſeat, I will take your place with the leave of the "good company, and think myſelf happy to be hailed "*Father of the Feaſt.*" He was forthwith elected into the chair, and complimented in a bumper in his new character.

The claret continued to circulate without interruption, till the glaſſes ſeemed to dance upon the table, and this, perhaps, was a hint to the ladies to call for muſic—At eight in the evening the ball began in another apartment: at midnight we went to ſupper, but it was broad day before I found the way to my lodgings; and, no doubt, his lordſhip had a ſwinging bill to diſcharge.

In ſhort, I have lived ſo riotouſly for ſome weeks, that my uncle begins to be alarmed on the ſcore of my conſtitution, and very ſeriouſly obſerves, that all his own infirmities are owing to ſuch exceſſes indulged in his youth—Mrs. Tabitha ſays, it would be more for the advantage of my ſoul, as well as body, if, inſtead of frequenting theſe ſcenes of debauchery, I would accompany Mr. Moffat and her to

hear a ſermon of the reverend Mr. M'Corkindale.—Clinker often exhorts me, with a groan, to take care of my precious health; and even Archy M'Alpine, when he happens to be overtaken (which is oftener the caſe than I could wiſh), reads me a long lecture upon temperance and ſobriety; and is ſo very wiſe and ſententious, that, if I could provide him with a profeſſor's chair, I would willingly give up the benefit of his admonitions and ſervice together; for I was tutor-ſick at Alma Mater.

I am not, however, ſo much engroſſed by the gaieties of Edinburgh, but that I find time to make parties in the family way.—We have not only ſeen all the villas and villages within ten miles of the capital, but we have alſo croſſed the Firth, which is an arm of the ſea ſeven miles broad, that divides Lothian from the ſhire, or, as the Scots call it, the *kingdom of Fife*. There is a number of large open ſea-boats that ply on this paſſage from Leith to Kinghorn, which is a borough on the other ſide. In one of theſe our whole family embarked three days ago, excepting my ſiſter, who, being exceedingly fearful of the water, was left to the care of Mrs. Mitchelſon. We had an eaſy and quick paſſage into Fife, where we viſited a number of poor towns on the ſea ſide, including St. Andrews, which is the ſkeleton of a venerable city; but we were much better pleaſed with ſome noble and elegant ſeats and caſtles, of which there is a great number in that part of Scotland. Yeſterday we took boat again on our return to Leith, with fair wind and agreeable weather; but we had not advanced half-way, when the ſky was ſuddenly overcaſt, and the wind changing, blew directly in our teeth, ſo that we were obliged to turn, or tack the reſt of the way. In a word, the gale increaſed

to a ſtorm of wind and rain, attended with ſuch a fog, that we could not ſee the town of Leith, to which we were bound, nor even the caſtle of Edinburgh, notwithſtanding its high ſituation. It is not to be doubted but that we were all alarmed on this occaſion; and at the ſame time, moſt of the paſſengers were ſeized with a nauſea that produced violent retchings. My aunt deſired her brother to order the boatmen to put back to Kinghorn, and this expedient he actually propoſed; but they aſſured him there was no danger. Mrs. Tabitha finding them obſtinate, began to ſcold, and inſiſted upon my uncle's exerting his authority as a juſtice of the peace. Sick and peeviſh as he was, he could not help laughing at this wiſe propoſal, telling her, that his commiſſion did not extend ſo far, and if it did, he ſhould let the people take their own way; for he thought it would be great preſumption in him to direct them in the exerciſe of their own profeſſion. Mrs. Winifred Jenkins made a general clearance with the aſſiſtance of Mr. Humphry Clinker, who joined her both in prayer and ejaculation.—As he took it for granted that we ſhould not be long in this world, he offered ſome ſpiritual conſolation to Mrs. Tabitha, who rejected it with great diſguſt, bidding him keep his ſermons for thoſe who had leiſure to hear ſuch nonſenſe.—My uncle ſat collected in himſelf, without ſpeaking; my man Archy had recourſe to a brandy bottle, with which he made ſo free, that I imagined he had ſworn to die of drinking any thing rather than ſea-water: but the brandy had no more effect upon him in the way of intoxication, than if it had been ſea-water in good earneſt.—As for myſelf, I was too much engroſſed by the ſickneſs at my ſtomach, to think of any thing elſe.—Meanwhile the ſea ſwelled mountains high; the boat pitched with ſuch violence, as if it had been going to pieces; the cord-

age rattled; the wind roared; the lightning flaſhed; the thunder bellowed, and the rain deſcended in a deluge—Every time the veſſel was put about, we ſhipp'd a ſea that drenched us all to the ſkin.—When, by dint of turning, we thought to have cleared the pier head, we were driven to leeward, and then the boatmen themſelves began to fear that the tide would fail before we ſhould fetch up our lee way: the next trip, however, brought us into ſmooth water, and we were ſafely landed on the quay, about one o'clock in the afternoon.—"To be ſure (cried Tabby, when ſhe "found herſelf on *terra firma*), we muſt have all periſh-"ed, if we had not been the particular care of Pro-"vidence."—"Yes (replied my uncle), but I am much "of the honeſt highlander's mind—after he had made "ſuch a paſſage as this: his friend told him he was "much indebted to Providence:—"Certainly, (ſaid "Donald), but, by my ſaul, mon, I'ſe ne'er trouble "Providence again, ſo long as the brig of Stirling "ſtands."——You muſt know the brig or bridge of Stirling ſtands above twenty miles up the river Forth, of which this is the outlet—I don't find that our 'ſquire has ſuffered in his health from this adventure; but poor Liddy is in a peeking way—I'm afraid this unfortunate girl is uneaſy in her mind; and this apprehenſion diſtracts me, for ſhe is really an amiable creature.

We ſhall ſet out to-morrow or next day for Stirling and Glaſgow; and we propoſe to penetrate a little way into the Highlands, before we turn our courſe to the ſouthward—In the mean time, commend me to all our friends round Carfax, and believe me to be, ever yours,

Edinburgh,
Aug. 8.

J. MELFORD.

To Dr. Lewis.

I SHOULD be very ungrateful, dear Lewis, if I did not find myſelf diſpoſed to think and ſpeak favourably of this people, among whom I have met with more kindneſs, hoſpitality, and rational entertainment, in a few weeks, than ever I received in any other country during the whole courſe of my life—Perhaps, the gratitude excited by theſe benefits may interfere with the impartiality of my remarks; for a man is as apt to be prepoſſeſſed by particular favours as to be prejudiced by private motives of diſguſt. If I am partial, there is, at leaſt, ſome merit in my converſion from illiberal prejudices which had grown up with my conſtitution.

The firſt impreſſions which an Engliſhman receives in this country, will not contribute to the removal of his prejudices; becauſe he refers every thing he ſees to a compariſon with the ſame articles in his own country; and this compariſon is unfavourable to Scotland in all its exteriors, ſuch as the face of the country in reſpect to cultivation, the appearance of the bulk of the people, and the language of converſation in general.—I am not ſo far convinced by Mr. Liſmahago's arguments, but that I think the Scots would do well, for their own ſakes, to adopt the Engliſh idioms and pronunciation; thoſe of them eſpecially, who are reſolved to puſh their fortunes in South Britain.——I know, by experience, how eaſily an Engliſhman is influenced by the ear, and how apt he is to laugh, when he hears his own language ſpoken with a foreign or provincial accent.—I have

known a member of the houſe of commons ſpeak with great energy and preciſion, without being able to engage attention, becauſe his obſervations were made in the Scotch dialect, which (no offence to lieutenant Liſmahago) certainly gives a clowniſh air even to ſentiments of the greateſt dignity and decorum.—I have declared my opinion on this head to ſome of the moſt ſenſible men of this country, obſerving, at the ſame time, that if they would employ a few natives of England to teach the pronunciation of our vernacular tongue, in twenty years there would be no difference, in point of dialect, between the youth of Edinburgh and of London.

The civil regulations of this kingdom and metropolis are taken from very different models from thoſe of England, except in a few particular eſtabliſhments, the neceſſary conſequences of the Union.—Their college of juſtice is a bench of great dignity, filled with judges of character and ability.—I have heard ſome cauſes tried before this venerable tribunal; and was very much pleaſed with the pleadings of their advocates, who are by no means deficient either in argument or elocution. The Scottiſh legiſlation is founded, in a great meaſure, on the civil law; conſequently, their proceedings vary from thoſe of the Engliſh tribunals; but, I think, they have the advantage of us in their method of examining witneſſes apart, and in the conſtitution of their jury, by which they certainly avoid the evil which I mentioned in my laſt from Liſmahago's obſervation.

The univerſity of Edinburgh is ſupplied with excellent profeſſors in all the ſciences; and the medical ſchool in particular is famous all over Europe.—The ſtudents of this art have the beſt opportunity of learning it to perfection, in all its branches, as there are different courſes for the *theory of medicine*, and

the *practice of medicine*; for *anatomy*, *chemistry*, *botany*, and the *materia medica*, over and above those of *mathematics* and *experimental philosophy*; and all these are given by men of distinguished talents. What renders this part of education still more complete, is the advantage of attending the infirmary, which is the best instituted charitable foundation that I ever knew. Now we are talking of charities, here are several hospitals, exceedingly well endowed, and maintained under admirable regulations; and these are not only useful, but ornamental to the city. Among these, I shall only mention the general workhouse, in which all the poor not otherwise provided for are employed, according to their different abilities, with such judgment and effect that they nearly maintain themselves by their labour, and there is not a beggar to be seen within the precincts of this metropolis. It was Glasgow that set the example of this establishment, about thirty years ago.—Even the kirk of Scotland, so long reproached with fanaticism and canting, abounds at present with ministers celebrated for their learning, and respectable for their moderation.—I have heard their sermons with equal astonishment and pleasure.—The good people of Edinburgh no longer think dirt and cobwebs essential to the house of God.—Some of their churches have admitted such ornaments as would have excited sedition even in England, a little more than a century ago; and psalmody is here practised and taught by a professor from the cathedral of Durham:—I should not be surprised in a few years to hear it accompanied with an organ.

Edinburgh is a hot-bed of genius.——I have had the good fortune to be made acquainted with many authors of the first distinction; such as the two Humes, Robertson, Smith, Wallace, Blair, Fer-

guſon, Wilkie, &c. and I have found them all as agreeable in converſation as they are inſtructive and entertaining in their writings. Theſe acquaintances I owe to the friendſhip of Dr. Carlyle, who wants nothing but inclination to figure with the reſt upon paper. The magiſtracy of Edinburgh is changed every year by election, and ſeems to be very well adapted both for ſtate and authority.—The *lord provoſt* is equal in dignity to the *lord-mayor of London*; and the *four bailies* are equivalent to the rank of aldermen.—There is a *dean of guild*, who takes cognizance of mercantile affairs; a treaſurer; a town-clerk; and the council is compoſed of deacons, one of whom is returned every year, in rotation, as repreſentative of every company of artificers or handicraftſmen. Though this city, from the nature of its ſituation, can never be made either very convenient or very cleanly, it has, nevertheleſs, an air of magnificence that commands reſpect. The caſtle is an inſtance of the ſublime in ſcite and architecture.—Its fortifications are kept in good order, and there is always in it a garriſon of regular ſoldiers, which is relieved every year; but it is incapable of ſuſtaining a ſiege carried on according to the modern operations of war.——The caſtle hill, which extends from the outward gate to the upper end of the High ſtreet, is uſed as a public walk for the citizens, and commands a proſpect, equally extenſive and delightful, over the county of Fife, on the other ſide of the Frith, and all along the ſea-coaſt, which is covered with a ſucceſſion of towns that would ſeem to indicate a conſiderable ſhare of commerce; but, if the truth muſt be told, theſe towns have been falling to decay ever ſince the Union, by which the Scots were in a great meaſure deprived of their trade with France.—The palace of Holyrood-houſe is a jewel in architecture,

thruſt into a hollow where it cannot be ſeen; a ſituation which was certainly not choſen by the ingenious architect, who muſt have been confined to the ſcite of the old palace, which was a convent. Edinburgh is conſiderably extended on the ſouth ſide, where there are divers little elegant ſquares built in the Engliſh manner; and the citizens have planned ſome improvements on the north, which, when put in execution, will add greatly to the beauty and convenience of this capital. The ſea-port is Leith, a flouriſhing town, about a mile from the city, in the harbour of which I have ſeen above one hundred ſhips lying all together. You muſt know, I had the curioſity to croſs the Frith in a paſſage-boat, and ſtayed two days in Fife, which is remarkably fruitful in corn, and exhibits a ſurpriſing number of fine ſeats, elegantly built, and magnificently furniſhed. There is an incredible number of noble houſes in every part of Scotland that I have ſeen.—Dalkeith, Pinkie, Yeſter, and lord Hopton's, all of them within four or five miles of Edinburgh, are princely palaces, in every one of which a ſovereign might reſide at his eaſe—I ſuppoſe the Scots affect theſe monuments of grandeur.—If I may be allowed to mingle cenſure with my remarks upon a people I revere, I muſt obſerve, that their weak ſide ſeems to be vanity.—I am afraid that even their hoſpitality is not quite free of oſtentation.—I think I have diſcovered among them uncommon pains taken to diſplay their fine linen, of which, indeed, they have great plenty, their furniture, plate, houſe-keeping, and variety of wines, in which article, it muſt be owned, they are profuſe, if not prodigal.—A burgher of Edinburgh, not content to vie with a citizen of London, who has ten times his fortune, muſt excel him in the expence as well as elegance of his entertainments.

Though the villas of the Scotch nobility and gentry have generally an air of grandeur and ſtate, I think their gardens and parks are not comparable to thoſe of England; a circumſtance the more remarkable, as I was told by the ingenious Mr. Philip Miller, of Chelſea, that almoſt all the gardeners of South-Britain were natives of Scotland. The verdure of this country is not equal to that of England.—The pleaſure-grounds are, in my opinion, not ſo well laid out according to the *genius loci*; nor are the lawns, and walks, and hedges kept in ſuch delicate order.—— The trees are planted in prudiſh rows, which have not ſuch an agreeable natural effect, as when they are thrown into irregular groupes, with intervening glades; and the firs, which they generally raiſe around their houſes, look dull and funeral in the ſummer ſeaſon.—I muſt confeſs, indeed, that they yield ſerviceable timber, and good ſhelter againſt the northern blaſts; that they grow and thrive in the moſt barren ſoil, and continually perſpire a fine balſam of turpentine, which muſt render the air very ſalutary and ſanative to lungs of a tender texture.

Tabby and I have been both frightened in our return by ſea from the coaſt of Fife.—She was afraid of drowning, and I of catching cold, in conſequence of being drenched with ſea-water; but my fears, as well as her's, have been happily diſappointed.—She is now in perfect health; I wiſh I could ſay the ſame of Liddy.—Something uncommon is the matter with that poor child; her colour fades, her appetite fails, and her ſpirits flag.—She is become moping and melancholy, and is often found in tears—Her brother ſuſpects internal uneaſineſs on account of Wilſon, and denounces vengeance againſt that adventurer.—She was, it ſeems, ſtrongly affected at the ball by the ſudden appearance of one Mr. Gordon,

who ſtrongly reſembles the ſaid Wilſon; but I am rather ſuſpicious that ſhe caught cold by being overheated with dancing.—I have conſulted Dr. Gregory, an eminent phyſician of an amiable character, who adviſes the highland air, and the uſe of goat-milk whey, which, ſurely, cannot have a bad effect upon a patient who was born and bred among the mountains of Wales.—The doctor's opinion is the more agreeable, as we ſhall find thoſe remedies in the very place which I propoſed as the utmoſt extent of our expedition—I mean the borders of Argyle.

Mr. Smollett, one of the judges of the commiſſary court, which is now ſitting, has very kindly inſiſted upon our lodging at his country-houſe, on the banks of Lough-Lomond, about fourteen miles beyond Glaſgow. For this laſt city we ſhall ſet out in two days, and take Stirling in our way, well provided with recommendations from our friends at Edinburgh, whom, I proteſt, I ſhall leave with much regret. I am ſo far from thinking it any hardſhip to live in this country, that, if I was obliged to lead a town life, Edinburgh would certainly be the head-quarters of

Yours always,

Edinburgh, Auguſt 8. MAT. BRAMBLE.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. of Jeſus College, Oxon.

DEAR KNIGHT,

I AM now little ſhort of the *Ultima Thule*, if this appellation properly belongs to the Orkneys or Hebrides. Theſe laſt are now lying before me, to

the amount of ſome hundreds, ſcattered up and down the Deucalidonian ſea, affording the moſt pictureſque and romantic proſpect I ever beheld——I write this letter in a gentleman's houſe, near the town of Inverary, which may be deemed the capital of the Weſt Highlands, famous for nothing ſo much as for the ſtately caſtle begun, and actually covered in, by the late duke of Argyle, at a prodigious expence—Whether it will ever be completely finiſhed is a queſtion—

But, to take things in order.——We left Edinburgh ten days ago; and the further North we proceed, we find Mrs. Tabitha the leſs manageable; ſo that her inclinations are not of the nature of the loadſtone; they point not towards the pole. What made her leave Edinburgh with reluctance at laſt, if we may believe her own aſſertions, was a diſpute which ſhe left unfiniſhed with Mr. Moffat, touching the eternity of hell torments. That gentleman, as he advanced in years, began to be ſceptical on this head, till, at length, he declared open war againſt the common acceptation of the word *eternal*. He is now perſuaded, that *eternal* ſignifies no more than an indefinite number of years; and that the moſt enormous ſinner may be quit for *nine millions, nine hundred thouſand nine hundred and ninety-nine years of hell-fire*; which term or period, as he very well obſerves, forms but an inconſiderable drop, as it were, in the ocean of eternity—For this mitigation he contends, as a ſyſtem agreeable to the ideas of goodneſs and mercy which we annex to the Supreme Being—Our aunt ſeemed willing to adopt this doctrine in favour of the wicked; but he hinted, that no perſon whatever was ſo righteous as to be exempted entirely from puniſhment in a future ſtate; and that the moſt pious Chriſtian upon earth might think himſelf very happy to get off for a faſt of ſeven or eight thouſand

years in the midſt of fire and brimſtone. Mrs. Tabitha revolted at this dogma, which filled her at once with horror and indignation—She had recourſe to the opinion of Humphry Clinker, who roundly declared it was the popiſh doctrine of purgatory, and quoted ſcripture in defence of the *fire everlaſting, prepared for the devil and his angels*——The reverend meſter Mackcorkandale, and all the theologiſts and ſaints of that perſuaſion were conſulted, and ſome of them had doubts about the matter; which doubts and ſcruples had begun to infect our aunt, when we took our departure from Edinburgh.

We paſſed through Linlithgow, where there was an elegant royal palace, which is now gone to decay, as well as the town itſelf—This too is pretty much the caſe with Stirling, though it ſtill boaſts of a fine old caſtle, in which the kings of Scotland were wont to reſide in their minority—But Glaſgow is the pride of Scotland, and, indeed, it might very well paſs for an elegant and flouriſhing city in any part of Chriſtendom. There we had the good fortune to be received into the houſe of Mr. Moore, an eminent ſurgeon, to whom we were recommended by one of our friends at Edinburgh; and, truly, he could not have done us more eſſential ſervice—Mr. Moore is a merry facetious companion, ſenſible and ſhrewd, with a conſiderable fund of humour; and his wife an agreeable woman, well-bred, kind, and obliging—Kindneſs, which I take to be the eſſence of good-nature and humanity, is the diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic of the Scotch ladies in their own country—Our landlord ſhewed us every thing, and introduced us to all the world at Glaſgow; where, through his recommendation, we were complimented with the freedom of the town. Conſidering the trade and opulence of this place, it cannot but abound with gaiety and diverſions

—Here is a great number of young fellows that rival the youth of the capital in ſpirit and expence; and I was ſoon convinced that all the female beauties of Scotland were not aſſembled at the hunters ball in Edinburgh—The town of Glaſgow flouriſhes in learning, as well as in commerce—Here is an univerſity, with profeſſors in all the different branches of ſcience, liberally endowed, and judiciouſly choſen—It was vacation time when I paſſed, ſo that I could not entirely ſatisfy my curioſity; but their mode of education is certainly preferable to ours in ſome reſpects—The ſtudents are not left to the private inſtruction of tutors; but taught in public ſchools or claſſes, each ſcience by its particular profeſſor or regent.

My uncle is in raptures with Glaſgow—He not only viſited all the manufactures of the place, but made excurſions all round, to Hamilton, Paiſley, Renfrew, and every other place within a dozen miles, where there was any thing remarkable to be ſeen in art or nature. I believe the exerciſe occaſioned by theſe jaunts, was of ſervice to my ſiſter Liddy, whoſe appetite and ſpirits begin to revive—Mrs. Tabitha diſplayed her attractions as uſual, and actually believed ſhe had entangled one Mr. Maclellan, a rich inkle-manufacturer, in her ſnares; but when matters came to an explanation, it appeared that his attachment was altogether ſpiritual, founded upon an intercourſe of devotion, at the meeting of Mr. John Weſley; who, in the courſe of his evangelical miſſion, had come hither in perſon—At length, we ſet out for the banks of Lough-Lomond, paſſing through the little borough of Dumbarton, or (as my uncle will have it) Dunbritton, where there is a caſtle, more curious than any thing of the kind I had ever ſeen—It is honoured with a particular deſcription by the elegant Buchannan, as an *arx inexpugnabilis*, and, indeed,

it muſt have been impregnable by the ancient manner of beſieging. It is a rock of conſiderable extent, riſing with a double top, in an angle formed by the confluence of two rivers, the Clyde and the Leven; perpendicular and inacceſſible on all ſides, except in one place, where the entrance is fortified; and there is no riſing ground in the neighbourhood from whence it could be damaged by any kind of battery.

From Dumbarton, the Weſt Highlands appear in the form of huge, duſky mountains, piled one over another; but this proſpect is not at all ſurpriſing to a native of Glamorgan——We have fixed our head-quarters at Cameron, a very neat country-houſe belonging to commiſſary Smollett, where we found every ſort of accommodation we could deſire—It is ſituated like a Druid's temple, in a grove of oak, cloſe by the ſide of Lough-Lomond, which is a ſurpriſing body of pure tranſparent water, unfathomably deep in many places, ſix or ſeven miles broad, four-and-twenty miles in length, diſplaying above twenty green iſlands, covered with wood; ſome of them cultivated for corn, and many of them ſtocked with red deer—They belong to different gentlemen, whoſe ſeats are ſcattered along the banks of the lake, which are agreeably romantic beyond all conception. My uncle and I have left the women at Cameron, as Mrs. Tabitha would by no means truſt herſelf again upon the water, and to come hither it was neceſſary to croſs a ſmall inlet of the ſea, in an open ferry-boat—This country appears more and more wild and ſavage the further we advance; and the people are as different from the Lowland Scots, in their looks, garb, and language, as the mountaineers of Brecknock are from the inhabitants of Herefordſhire.

When the Lowlanders want to drink a chearuping-cup, they go to the public-houſe, called the

Change-houſe, and call for a chopine of two-penny, which is a thin, yeaſty beverage, made of malt; not quite ſo ſtrong as the table-beer of England—This is brought in a pewter ſtoup, ſhaped like a ſkittle, from whence it is emptied into a quaff; that is, a curious cup made of different pieces of wood, ſuch as box and ebony, cut into little ſtaves, joined alternately, and ſecured with delicate hoops, having two ears or handles—It holds about a gill, is ſometimes tipt round the mouth with ſilver, and has a plate of the ſame metal at bottom, with the landlord's cypher engraved.—The Highlanders, on the contrary, deſpiſe this liquor, and regale themſelves with whiſky; a malt ſpirit, as ſtrong as geneva, which they ſwallow in great quantities, without any ſigns of inebriation. They are uſed to it from the cradle, and find it an excellent preſervative againſt the winter cold, which muſt be extreme on theſe mountains—I am told that it is given with great ſucceſs to infants, as a cordial in the confluent ſmall-pox, when the eruption ſeems to flag, and the ſymptoms grow unfavourable. The Highlanders are uſed to eat much more animal food than falls to the ſhare of their neighbours in the Low-country—They delight in hunting; have plenty of deer and other game, with a great number of ſheep, goats, and black cattle running wild, which they ſcruple not to kill as veniſon, without being at much pains to aſcertain the property.

Inverary is but a poor town, though it ſtands immediately under the protection of the duke of Argyle, who is a mighty prince in this part of Scotland. The peaſants live in wretched cabins, and ſeem very poor; but the gentlemen are tolerably well lodged, and ſo loving to ſtrangers, that a man runs ſome riſque of his life from their hoſpitality—It muſt be obſerved, that the poor Highlanders are now ſeen to diſad-

vantage—They have been not only disarmed by act of parliament, but also deprived of their ancient garb, which was both graceful and convenient; and what is a greater hardship still, they are compelled to wear breeches; a restraint which they cannot bear with any degree of patience: indeed, the majority wear them, not in the proper place, but on poles or long staves over their shoulders—They are even debarred the use of their striped stuff, called Tartane, which was their own manufacture, prized by them above all the velvets, brocades, and tissues of Europe and Asia. They now lounge along in loose great coats, of coarse russet, equally mean and cumbersome, and betray manifest marks of dejection—Certain it is, the government could not have taken a more effectual method to break their national spirit.

We have had princely sport hunting the stag on these mountains—These are the lonely hills of Morven, where Fingal and his heroes enjoyed the same pastime: I feel an enthusiastic pleasure when I survey the brown heath. Ossian went to tread, and hear the wind whistle through the bending grass—When I enter our landlord's hall, I look for the suspended harp of that divine bard, and listen in hopes of hearing the aerial sound of his respected spirit——The Poems of Ossian are in every mouth—A famous antiquarian of this country, the laird of Macfarlane, at whose house we dined a few days ago, can repeat them all in the original Gaelick, which has a great affinity to the Welch, not only in the general sound, but also in a great number of radical words; and I make no doubt but that they are both sprung from the same origin. I was not a little surprised, when asking a Highlander one day, if he knew where we should find any game? he replied, "*cha-niel Sassenagh*," which signifies *no English*: the very same answer I

ſhould have received from a Welchman, and almoſt in the ſame words. The Highlanders have no other name for the people of the Low-country, but Saſſenagh, or Saxons; a ſtrong preſumption, that the Low-land Scots and the Engliſh are derived from the ſame ſtock—The peaſants of theſe hills ſtrongly reſemble thoſe of Wales in their looks, their manners, and habitations; every thing I ſee, and hear, and feel, ſeems Welch—The mountains, vales, and ſtreams; the air and climate; the beef, mutton, and game, are all Welch—It muſt be owned, however, that this people are better provided than we in ſome articles—They have plenty of red deer and roebuck, which are fat and delicious at this ſeaſon of the year—Their ſea teems with amazing quantities of the fineſt fiſh in the world; and they find means to procure very good claret at a very ſmall expence.

Our landlord is a man of conſequence in this part of the country; a cadet from the family of Argyle, and hereditary captain of one of his caſtles—His name in plain Engliſh, is Dougal Campbell; but as there is a great number of the ſame appellation, they are diſtinguiſhed (like the Welch) by patronimics; and as I have known an ancient Briton called Madoc ap-Morgan, ap-Jenkins, ap-Jones, our Highland chief deſigns himſelf Dou'l mac-Amiſh, mac-'oul Ich-ian, ſignifying Dougal, the ſon of James, the ſon of Dougal, the ſon of John—&c.—He has travelled in the courſe of his education, and is diſpoſed to make certain alterations in his domeſtic œconomy; but he finds it impoſſible to aboliſh the ancient cuſtoms of the family; ſome of which are ludicrous enough—His piper, for example, who is an hereditary officer of the houſehold, will not part with the leaſt particle of his privileges—He has a right to wear the kilt, or ancient Highland dreſs, with the purſe, piſtol, and dirk—

a broad yellow ribbon, fixed to the chanter-pipe, is thrown over his ſhoulder, and trails along the ground, while he performs the function of his minſtrelſy; and this, I ſuppoſe, is analogous to the pennon or flag which was formerly carried before every knight in b ttle—He plays before the laird every Sunday in his way to the kirk, which he circles three times, performing the family march, which implies defiance to all the enemies of the clan; and every morning he plays a full hour by the clock, in the great hall, marching backwards and forwards all the time, with a ſolemn pace, attended by the laird's kinſmen, who ſeem much delighted with the muſic—In this exerciſe, he indulges them with a variety of pibrachs or airs ſuited to the different paſſions which he would either excite or aſſuage.

Mr. Campbell himſelf, who performs very well on the violin, has an invincible antipathy to the ſound of the Highland bagpipe, which ſings in the noſe with a moſt alarming twang, and, indeed, is quite intolerable to ears of common ſenſibility, when aggravated by the echo of a vaulted hall—He therefore begged the piper would have ſome mercy upon him, and diſpenſe with this part of the morning ſervice—A conſultation of the clan being held on this occaſion, it was unanimouſly agreed, that the laird's requeſt could not be granted without a dangerous encroachment upon the cuſtoms of the family—The piper declared, he could not give up for a moment the privilege he derived from his anceſtors; nor would the laird's relations forego an entertainment which they valued above all others—There was no remedy; Mr. Campbell, being obliged to acquieſce, is fain to ſtop his ears with cotton; to fortify his head with three or four night-caps, and every morning retire into the penetralia of his habitation, in order

to avoid this diurnal annoyance. When the muſic ceaſes, he produces himſelf at an open window that looks into the court-yard, which is by this time filled with a crowd of his vaſſals and dependents, who worſhip his firſt appearance, by uncovering their heads, and bowing to the earth with the moſt humble proſtration. As all theſe people have ſomething to communicate in the way of propoſal, complaint, or petition, they wait patiently till the laird comes forth, and, following him in his walks, are favoured each with a ſhort audience in his turn. Two days ago, he diſpatched above an hundred different ſolicitors, in walking with us to the houſe of a neighbouring gentleman, where we dined by invitation. Our landlord's houſe-keeping is equally rough and hoſpitable, and ſavours much of the ſimplicity of ancient times: the great hall, paved with flat ſtones, is about forty-five feet by twenty-two, and ſerves not only for a dining-room, but alſo for a bed-chamber to gentlemen-dependents and hangers-on of the family. At night half a dozen occaſional beds are ranged on each ſide along the wall. Theſe are made of freſh heath, pulled up by the roots, and diſpoſed in ſuch manner as to make a very agreeable couch, where they lie, without any other covering than the plaid.——My uncle and I were indulged with ſeparate chambers and down beds, which we begged to exchange for a layer of heath; and indeed I never ſlept ſo much to my ſatisfaction. It was not only ſoft and elaſtic, but the plant, being in flower, diffuſed an agreeable fragrance, which is wonderfully refreſhing and reſtorative.

Yeſterday we were invited to the funeral of an old lady, the grand-mother of a gentleman in this neighbourhood, and found ourſelves in the midſt of fifty people, who were regaled with a ſumptuous

feaſt, accompanied by the muſic of a dozen pipers. In ſhort, this meeting had all the air of a grand feſtival; and the gueſts did ſuch honour to the entertainment, that many of them could not ſtand when we were reminded of the buſineſs on which we had met. The company forthwith taking horſe, rode in a very irregular cavalcade to the place of interment, a church, at the diſtance of two long miles from the caſtle. On our arrival, however, we found we had committed a ſmall overſight, in leaving the corpſe behind; ſo that we were obliged to wheel about, and met the old gentlewoman half way, carried upon poles by the neareſt relations of her family, and attended by the *coronach*, compoſed of a multitude of old hags, who tore their hair, beat their breaſts, and howled moſt hideouſly. At the grave, the orator, or *ſenachie*, pronounced the panegyric of the defunct, every period being confirmed by a yell of the *coronach*. The body was committed to the earth, the pipes playing a pibrach all the time, and all the company ſtanding uncovered. The ceremony was cloſed with the diſcharge of piſtols; then we returned to the caſtle, reſumed the bottle, and by midnight there was not a ſober perſon in the family, the females excepted. The 'ſquire and I were, with ſome difficulty, permitted to retire with our landlord in the evening; but our entertainer was a little chagrined at our retreat; and afterwards ſeemed to think it a diſparagement to his family, that not above a hundred gallons of whiſky had been drank upon ſuch a ſolemn occaſion. This morning we got up by four, to hunt the roebuck, and, in half an hour, found breakfaſt ready ſerved in the hall. The hunters conſiſted of Sir George Colquhoun and me, as ſtrangers (my uncle not chuſing to be of the party), of the *laird in perſon*, *the laird's brother*, *the laird's*

brother's ſon, the laird's ſiſter's ſon, the laird's father's brother's ſon, and all their *foſter brothers,* who are counted parcel of the family; but we were attended by an infinite number of *Gaellys,* or ragged Highlanders, without ſhoes or ſtockings.

The following articles formed our morning's repaſt: one kit of boiled eggs; a ſecond, full of butter; a third, full of cream; an entire cheeſe, made of goat's milk; a large earthen pot full of honey; the beſt part of a ham; a cold veniſon paſty; a buſhel of oatmeal, made in thin cakes and bannocks, with a ſmall wheaten loaf in the middle for the ſtrangers; a large ſtone bottle full of whiſky, another of brandy, and a kilderkin of ale. There was a ladle chained to the cream kit, with curious wooden bickers to be filled from this reſervoir. The ſpirits were drank out of a ſilver quaff, and the ale out of horns; great juſtice was done to the collation by the gueſts in general; one of them in particular ate above two dozen of hard eggs, with a proportionable quantity of bread, butter, and honey; nor was one drop of liquor left upon the board. Finally, a large roll of tobacco was preſented by way of deſert, and every individual took a comfortable quid, to prevent the bad effects of the morning air. We had a fine chace over the mountains, after a roebuck, which we killed, and I got home time enough to drink tea with Mrs. Campbell and our 'ſquire. To-morrow we ſhall ſet out on our return for Cameron. We propoſe to croſs the Frith of Clyde, and take the towns of Greenock and Port-Glaſgow in our way. This circuit being finiſhed, we ſhall turn our faces to the ſouth, and follow the ſun with augmented velocity, in order to enjoy the reſt of the autumn in England, where Boreas is not quite ſo biting as he begins already to be on the tops of theſe northern hills. But

our progreſs from place to place ſhall continue to be ſpecified in theſe detached journals of,

Yours always,

Argyleſhire, Sept. 3. J. MELFORD.

To DR. LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

ABOUT a fortnight is now elapſed ſince we left the capital of Scotland, directing our courſe towards Stirling, where we lay.—The caſtle of this place is ſuch another as that of Edinburgh, and affords a ſurpriſing proſpect of the windings of the river Forth, which are ſo extraordinary, that the diſtance from hence to Alloa by land is but four miles, and by water it is twenty-four. Alloa is a neat thriving town, that depends in a great meaſure on the commerce of Glaſgow, the merchants of which ſend hither tobacco and other articles, to be depoſited in warehouſes for exportation from the Frith of Forth. In our way hither we viſited a flouriſhing iron-work, where, inſtead of burning wood, they uſe coal, which they have the art of clearing in ſuch a manner as frees it from the ſulphur, that would otherwiſe render the metal too brittle for working. Excellent coal is found in almoſt every part of Scotland.

The ſoil of this diſtrict produces ſcarce any other grain but oats and barley; perhaps becauſe it is poorly cultivated, and almoſt altogether unincloſed. The few incloſures they have conſiſt of paltry walls of looſe ſtones gathered from the fields, which indeed they cover, as if they had been ſcattered on purpoſe. When I

expreſſed my ſurprize that the peaſants did not diſencumber their grounds of theſe ſtones; a gentleman well acquainted with the theory as well as practice of farming, aſſured me that the ſtones, far from being prejudicial, were ſerviceable to the crop. This philoſopher had ordered a field of his own to be cleared, manured and ſown with barley, and the produce was more ſcanty than before. He cauſed the ſtones to be replaced, and next year the crop was as good as ever. The ſtones were removed a ſecond time, and the harveſt failed; they were again brought back, and the ground retrieved its fertility. The ſame experiment has been tried in different parts of Scotland with the ſame ſucceſs—Aſtoniſhed at this information, I deſired to know in what manner he accounted for this ſtrange phenomenon; and he ſaid there were three ways in which the ſtones might be ſerviceable. They might poſſibly reſtrain an exceſs in the perſpiration of the earth, analogous to colliquative ſweats, by which the human body is ſometimes waſted and conſumed. They might act as ſo many fences to protect the tender blade from the piercing winds of the ſpring; or, by multiplying the reflection of the ſun, they might increaſe the warmth, ſo as to mitigate the natural chilneſs of the ſoil and climate—But, ſurely this exceſſive perſpiration might be more effectually checked by different kinds of manure, ſuch as aſhes, lime, chalk, or marl, of which laſt it ſeems there are many pits in this kingdom; as for the warmth, it would be much more equally obtained by incloſures; one half of the ground which is now covered, would be retrieved; the cultivation would require leſs labour; and the plows, harrows, and horſes, would not ſuffer half the damage which they now ſuſtain.

Theſe north-weſtern parts are by no means fertile

in corn. The ground is naturally barren and mooriſh. The peaſants are poorly lodged, meagre in their looks, mean in their apparel, and remarkably dirty. This laſt reproach they might eaſily waſh off, by means of thoſe lakes, rivers, and rivulets of pure water, with which they are ſo liberally ſupplied by nature. Agriculture cannot be expected to flouriſh where the farms are ſmall, the leaſes ſhort, and the huſbandman begins upon a rack rent, without a ſufficient ſtock to anſwer the purpoſes of improvement. The granaries of Scotland are the Banks of the Tweed, the counties of Eaſt and Mid Lothian, the Carſe of Gowrie, in Perthſhire, equal in fertility to any part of England, and ſome tracts in Aberdeenſhire and Murray, where I am told the harveſt is more early than in Northumberland, although they lie above two degrees farther north. I have a ſtrong curioſity to viſit many places beyond the Forth and the Tay, ſuch as Perth, Dundee, Montroſe, and Aberdeen, which are towns equally elegant and thriving; but the ſeaſon is too far advanced to admit of this addition to my original plan.

I am ſo far happy as to have ſeen Glaſgow, which, to the beſt of my recollection and judgment, is one of the prettieſt towns in Europe; and, without all doubt, it is one of the moſt flouriſhing in Great-Britain. In ſhort, it is a perfect bee-hive in point of induſtry. It ſtands partly on a gentle declivity; but the greateſt part of it is in a plain, watered by the river Clyde. The ſtreets are ſtraight, open, airy, and well-paved; and the houſes lofty and well built of hewn ſtone. At the upper end of the town there is a venerable cathedral, that may be compared with York minſter or Weſtminſter; and, about the middle of the deſcent from this to the Croſs, is the college, a reſpectable pile of buildings with all manner of ac-

commodation for the profeſſors and ſtudents, including an elegant library, and an obſervatory well provided with aſtronomical inſtruments. The number of inhabitants is ſaid to amount to thirty thouſand; and marks of opulence and independency appear in every quarter of this commercial city, which, however, is not without its inconveniences and defects. The water of their public pumps is generally hard and brackiſh, an imperfection the leſs excuſable, as the river Clyde runs by their doors, in the lower part of the town, and there are rivulets and ſprings above the cathedral, ſufficient to fill a large reſervoir with excellent water, which might be thence diſtributed to all the different parts of the city. It is of more conſequence to conſult the health of the inhabitants in this article, than to employ ſo much attention in beautifying their town with new ſtreets, ſquares, and churches. Another defect, not ſo eaſily remedied, is the ſhallowneſs of the river, which will not float veſſels of any burthen within ten or twelve miles of the city; ſo that the merchants are obliged to load and unload their ſhips at Greenock and Port-Glaſgow, ſituated about fourteen miles nearer the mouth of the Frith, where it is about two miles broad.

The people of Glaſgow have a noble ſpirit of enterprize—Mr. Moore, a ſurgeon, to whom I was recommended from Edinburgh, introduced me to all the principal merchants of the place. Here I became acquainted with Mr. Cochran, who may be ſtiled one of the ſages of this kingdom. He was firſt magiſtrate at the time of the laſt rebellion. I ſat as member when he was examined in the houſe of commons; upon which occaſion Mr. P—— obſerved he had never heard ſuch a ſenſible evidence given at that bar—I was alſo introduced to Dr. John Gordon, a patriot of a truly Roman ſpirit, who is the father of

the linen manufacture in this place, and was a great promoter of the city workhouſe, infirmary, and other works of public utility. Had he lived in ancient Rome, he would have been honoured with a ſtatue at the public expence. I moreover converſed with one Mr. G—ſſ—d, whom I take to be one of the greateſt merchants in Europe. In the laſt war, he is ſaid to have had at one time five and twenty ſhips, with their cargoes, his own property, and to have traded for above half a million ſterling a year. The laſt war was a fortunate period for the commerce of Glaſgow—The merchants, conſidering that their ſhips bound for America, launching out at once into the Atlantic by the north of Ireland, purſued a track very little frequented by privateers, reſolved to inſure one another, and ſaved a very conſiderable ſum by this reſolution, as few or none of their ſhips were taken — You muſt know I have a ſort of national attachment to this part of Scotland—The great church dedicated to St. Monagh, the river Clyde, and other particulars that ſmack of our Welch language and cuſtoms, contribute to flatter me with the notion, that theſe people are the deſcendants of the Britons, who once poſſeſſed this country. Without all queſtion, this was a Cambrian kingdom: its capital was Dumbarton (a corruption of Dunbritton) which ſtill exiſts as a royal borough, at the influx of the Clyde and Leven, ten miles below Glaſgow. The ſame neighbourhood gave birth to St. Patrick, the apoſtle of Ireland, at a place where there is ſtill a church and village which retain his name. Hard by are ſome veſtiges of the famous Roman wall, built in the reign of Antonine, from the Clyde to the Forth, and fortified with caſtles, to reſtrain the incurſions of the Scots or Caledonians, who inhabited the Weſt-Highlands. In a line parallel to this wall, the merchants

of Glaſgow have determined to make a navigable canal betwixt the two Friths, which will be of incredible advantage to their commerce, in tranſporting merchandize from one ſide of the iſland to the other.

From Glaſgow we travelled along the Clyde, which is a delightful ſtream, adorned on both ſides with villas, towns, and villages. Here is no want of groves, and meadows, and corn-fields interſperſed; but, on this ſide of Glaſgow, there is little other grain than oats and barley; the firſt are much better, the laſt much worſe, than thoſe of the ſame ſpecies in England. I wonder there is ſo little rye, which is a grain that will thrive in almoſt any ſoil; and it is ſtill more ſurpriſing, that the cultivation of potatoes ſhould be ſo much neglected in the Highlands, where the poor people have not meal enough to ſupply them with bread through the winter. On the other ſide of the river are the towns of Paiſley and Renfrew. The firſt, from an inconſiderable village, is become one of the moſt flouriſhing places of the kingdom, enriched by the linen, cambrick, flowered lawn, and ſilk manufactures. It was formerly noted for a rich monaſtery of the monks of Clugny, who wrote the famous *Scoti-Chronicon*, called *The Black Book of Paiſley*. The old abbey ſtill remains, converted into a dwelling-houſe, belonging to the earl of Dundonald. Renfrew is a pretty town, on the banks of Clyde, capital of the ſhire, which was heretofore the patrimony of the Stuart family, and gave the title of baron to the king's eldeſt ſon, which is ſtill aſſumed by the Prince of Wales.

The Clyde we left a little on our left-hand at Dunbritton, where it widens into an æſtuary or frith, being augmented by the influx of the Leven. On this ſpot ſtands the caſtle formerly called Alcluyd,

waſhed by theſe two rivers on all ſides, except a narrow iſthmus, which at every ſpring-tide is overflowed. The whole is a great curioſity, from the quality and form of the rock, as well as from the nature of its ſituation.—We now croſſed the water of Leven, which, though nothing near ſo conſiderable as the Clyde, is much more tranſparent, paſtoral, and delightful. This charming ſtream is the outlet of Lough-Lomond, and through a tract of four miles purſues its winding courſe, murmuring over a bed of pebbles, till it joins the Frith at Dunbritton. A very little above its ſource, on the lake, ſtands the houſe of Cameron, belonging to Mr. Smollett, ſo embo-ſomed in an oak-wood, that we did not ſee it till we were within fifty yards of the door. I have ſeen the Lago di Garda, Albano, De Vico, Bolſena, and Geneva, and, upon my honour, I prefer Lough-Lomond to them all; a preference which is certainly owing to the verdant iſlands that ſeem to float upon its ſurface, affording the moſt enchanting objects of repoſe to the excurſive view. Nor are the banks deſtitute of beauties which even partake of the ſublime. On this ſide they diſplay a ſweet variety of woodland, corn-field, and paſture, with ſeveral agreeable villas, emerging as it were out of the lake, till, at ſome diſtance, the proſpect terminates in huge mountains covered with heath, which being in the bloom, affords a very rich covering of purple. Every thing here is romantic beyond imagination. This country is juſtly ſtiled the Arcadia of Scotland; and I don't doubt but it may vie with Arcadia in every thing but climate——I am ſure it excels it in verdure, wood, and water.——What ſay you to a natural baſon of pure water, near thirty miles long, and in ſome places ſeven miles broad, and in many above a hundred fathom deep, having four-and-twenty habitable iſlands,

ſome of them ſtocked with deer, and all of them covered with wood; containing immenſe quantities of delicious fiſh, ſalmon, pike, trout, perch, flounders, eels, and powans, the laſt a delicate kind of freſh-water herring peculiar to this lake; and finally communicating with the ſea, by ſending off the Leven, through which all thoſe ſpecies (except the powan) make their exit and entrance occaſionally?

Incloſed I ſend you a copy of a little ode to this river, by Dr. Smollett, who was born on the banks of it, within two miles of the place where I am now writing. — It is at leaſt pictureſque and accurately deſcriptive, if it has no other merit. — There is an idea of truth in an agreeable landſcape taken from nature, which pleaſes me more than the gayeſt fiction which the moſt luxuriant fancy can diſplay.

I have other remarks to make; but as my paper is full, I muſt reſerve them till the next occaſion. I ſhall only obſerve at preſent, that I am determined to penetrate at leaſt forty miles into the Highlands, which now appear like a vaſt fantaſtic viſion in the clouds, inviting the approach of

Yours always,

Cameron, Aug. 28. MATT. BRAMBLE.

ODE to LEVEN-WATER.

ON Leven's banks, while free to rove,
And tune the rural pipe to love;
I envied not the happieſt ſwain
That ever trod the Arcadian plain.

Pure ſtream! in whoſe tranſparent wave
My youthful limbs I wont to lave;

No torrents ſtain thy limpid ſource;
No rocks impede thy dimpling courſe,
That ſweetly warbles o'er its bed,
With white, round, poliſh'd pebbles ſpread;
While, lightly pois'd, the ſcaly brood
In myriads cleave thy cryſtal flood;
The ſpringing trout in ſpeckled pride;
The ſalmon, monarch of the tide;
The ruthleſs pike, intent on war;
The ſilver eel, and mottled par. †

Devolving from thy parent lake,
A charming maze thy waters make,
By bow'rs of birch, and groves of pine,
And hedges flow'r'd with eglantine.

Still on thy banks ſo gayly green,
May num'rous herds and flocks be ſeen,
And laſſes chanting o'er the pail,
And ſhepherds piping in the dale,
And ancient faith that knows no guile,
And induſtry imbrown'd with toil,
And hearts reſolv'd, and hands prepar'd,
The bleſſings they enjoy to guard.

† The par is a ſmall fiſh, not unlike the ſmelt, which it rivals in delicacy and flavour.

To Dr. LEWIS.

DEAR DOCTOR,

IF I was diſpoſed to be critical, I ſhould ſay this houſe of Cameron is too near the lake, which approaches, on one ſide, to within ſix or ſeven yards of the window. It might have been placed in a higher

ſite, which would have afforded a more extenſive proſpect and a drier atmoſphere; but this imperfection is not chargeable on the preſent proprietor, who purchaſed it ready built, rather than be at the trouble of repairing his own family-houſe of Bonhill, which ſtands two miles from hence on the Leven, ſo ſurrounded with plantation, that it uſed to be known by the name of the Mavis (or thruſh) Neſt. Above that houſe is a romantic glen or clift of a mountain, covered with hanging woods, having at bottom a ſtream of fine water that forms a number of caſcades in its deſcent to join the Leven; ſo that the ſcene is quite enchanting. A captain of a man of war, who had made the circuit of the globe with Mr. Anſon, being conducted to this glen, exclaimed, "Juan Fernandez, "by God!"

Indeed, this country would be a perfect paradiſe, if it was not, like Wales, curſed with a weeping climate, owing to the ſame cauſes in both, the neighbourhood of high mountains, and a weſterly ſituation, expoſed to the vapours of the Atlantic ocean. This air, however, notwithſtanding its humidity, is ſo healthy, that the natives are ſcarce ever viſited by any other diſeaſe than the ſmall-pox, and certain cutaneous evils, which are the effects of dirty living, the great and general reproach of the commonalty of this kingdom. Here are a great many living monuments of longævity; and among the reſt a perſon, whom I treat with ſingular reſpect, as a venerable druid, who has lived near ninety years, without pain or ſickneſs, among oaks of his own planting.—He was once proprietor of theſe lands; but being of a projecting ſpirit, ſome of his ſchemes miſcarried, and he was obliged to part with his poſſeſſion, which hath ſhifted hands two or three times ſince that period; but every ſucceeding proprietor hath done every

thing in his power to make his old age eaſy and comfortable. He has a ſufficiency to procure the neceſſaries of life; and he and his old woman reſided in a ſmall convenient farm-houſe, having a little garden, which he cultivates with his own hands. This ancient couple live in great health, peace, and harmony, and, knowing no wants, enjoy the perfection of content. Mr. Smollett calls him the admiral, becauſe he inſiſts upon ſteering his pleaſure-boat upon the lake; and he ſpends moſt of his time in ranging through the woods, which he declares he enjoys as much as if they were ſtill his own property——I aſked him the other day, if he was never ſick? and he anſwered, Yes; he had a ſlight fever the year before the Union. If he was not deaf, I ſhould take much pleaſure in his converſation; for he is very intelligent, and his memory is ſurpriſingly retentive. — Theſe are the happy effects of temperance, exerciſe, and good-nature—Notwithſtandng all his innocence, however, he was the cauſe of great perturbation to my man Clinker, whoſe natural ſuperſtition has been much injured, by the hiſtories of witches, fairies, ghoſts, and goblins, which he has heard in this country—On the evening after our arrival, Humphry ſtrolled into the wood, in the courſe of his meditation, and all at once the admiral ſtood before him, under the ſhadow of a ſpreading oak. Though the fellow is far from being timorous in caſes that are not ſuppoſed preternatural, he could not ſtand the ſight of this apparition, but ran into the kitchen, with his hair ſtanding on end, ſtaring wildly, and deprived of utterance. Mrs. Jenkins, ſeeing him in this condition, ſcreamed aloud, "Lord have mercy upon us, "he has ſeen ſomething!" Mrs. Tabitha was alarmed, and the whole houſe in confuſion. When he was recruited with a dram, I deſired him to ex-

plain the meaning of all this agitation; and, with ſome reluctance, he owned he had ſeen a ſpirit, in the ſhape of an old man with a white beard, a black cap, and a plaid night-gown. He was undeceived by the admiral in perſon, who, coming in at this juncture, appeared to be a creature of real fleſh and blood.

Do you know how we fare in this Scottiſh paradiſe? We make free with our landlord's mutton, which is excellent, his poultry-yard, his garden, his dairy, and his cellar, which are well ſtored. We have delicious ſalmon, pike, trout, perch, par, &c. at the door, for the taking. The Frith of Clyde, on the other ſide of the hill, ſupplies us with mullet, red and grey, cod, mackarel, whiting, and a variety of ſea-fiſh, including the fineſt freſh herrings I ever taſted. We have ſweet juicy beef, and tolerable veal, with delicate bread from the little town of Dunbritton; and plenty of partridge, growſe, heath-cock, and other game, in preſents.

We have been viſited by all the gentlemen in the neighbourhood, and they have entertained us at their houſes, not barely with hoſpitality, but with ſuch marks of cordial affection, as one would wiſh to find among near relations, after an abſence of many years.

I told you, in my laſt, I had projected an excurſion to the Highlands, which project I have now happily executed, under the auſpices of Sir George Colquhoun, a colonel in the Dutch ſervice, who offered himſelf as our conductor on this occaſion. Leaving our women at Cameron, to the care and inſpection of Lady H—— C——, we ſet out on horſeback for Inverary, the county-town of Argyle, and dined on the road with the Laird of Macfarlane, the

greateſt genealogiſt I ever knew in any country, and perfectly acquainted with all the antiquities of Scotland.

The Duke of Argyle has an old caſtle at Inverary, where he reſides when he is in Scotland; and hard by is the ſhell of a noble Gothic palace, built by the laſt duke, which, when finiſhed, will be a great ornament to this part of the Highlands. As for Inverary, it is a place of very little importance.

This country is amazingly wild, eſpecially towards the mountains, which are heaped upon the backs of one another, making a moſt ſtupendous appearance of ſavage nature, with hardly any ſigns of cultivation, or even of population. All is ſublimity, ſilence, and ſolitude. The people live together in glens or bottoms, where they are ſheltered from the cold and ſtorms of winter: but there is a margin of plain ground ſpread along the ſea-ſide, which is well inhabited and improved by the arts of huſbandry; and this I take to be one of the moſt agreeable tracts of the whole iſland; the ſea not only keeps it warm, and ſupplies it with fiſh, but affords it one of the moſt raviſhing proſpects in the whole world; I mean the appearance of the Hebrides, or Weſtern Iſlands, to the number of three hundred, ſcattered as far as the eye can reach, in the moſt agreeable confuſion. As the ſoil and climate of the Highlands are but ill adapted to the cultivation of corn, the people apply themſelves chiefly to the breeding and feeding of black cattle, which turn to good account. Thoſe animals run wild all the winter, without any ſhelter or ſubſiſtence, but what they can find among the heath. When the ſnow lies ſo deep and hard, that they cannot penetrate to the roots of the graſs, they make a diurnal progreſs, guided by a ſure inſtinct, to

the ſea-ſide at low water, where they feed on the *alga marina*, and other plants that grow upon the beach.

Perhaps this branch of huſbandry, which requires very little attendance and labour, is one of the principal cauſes of that idleneſs and want of induſtry, which diſtinguiſhes theſe mountaineers in their own country. — When they come forth into the world, they become as diligent and alert as any people upon earth. They are undoubtedly a very diſtinct ſpecies from their fellow ſubjects of the low-lands, againſt whom they indulge an ancient ſpirit of animoſity; and this difference is very diſcernible even among perſons of family and education. The Lowlanders are generally cool and circumſpect, the Highlanders fiery and ferocious: but this violence of their paſſions ſerves only to inflame the zeal of their devotion to ſtrangers, which is truly enthuſiaſtic.

We proceeded about twenty miles beyond Inverary, to the houſe of a gentleman, a friend of our conductor, where we ſtaid a few days, and were feaſted in ſuch a manner, that I began to dread the conſequence to my conſtitution.

Notwithſtanding the ſolitude that prevails among theſe mountains, there is no want of people in the Highlands. I am credibly informed that the duke of Argyle can aſſemble five thouſand men in arms, of his own clan and ſurname, which is Campbell; and there is beſides a tribe of the ſame appellation, whoſe chief is the earl of Breadalbane. The Macdonalds are as numerous, and remarkably warlike: the Camerons, M'Leods, Fraſers, Grants, M'Kenzies, M'Kays, M'Pherſons, M'Intoſhes, are powerful clans; ſo that if all the Highlanders, including the inhabitants of the Iſles, were united, they could

bring into the field an army of forty thouſand fighting men, capable of undertaking the moſt dangerous enterprize. We have lived to ſee four thouſand of them, without diſcipline, throw the whole kingdom of Great Britain into confuſion. They attacked and defeated two armies of regular troops, accuſtomed to ſervice. They penetrated into the centre of England; and afterwards marched back with great deliberation, in the face of two other armies, through an enemy's country, where every precaution was taken to cut off their retreat. I know not any other people in Europe, who, without the uſe or knowledge of arms, will attack regular forces ſword in hand, if their chief will head them in battle. When diſciplined, they cannot fail of being excellent ſoldiers. They do not walk like the generality of mankind, but trot and bounce like deer, as if they moved upon ſprings. They greatly excel the Lowlanders in all the exerciſes that require agility; they are incredibly abſtemious, and patient of hunger and fatigue; ſo ſteeled againſt the weather, that in travelling, even when the ground is covered with ſnow, they never look for a houſe, or any other ſhelter but their plaid, in which they wrap themſelves up, and go to ſleep under the cope of heaven. Such people, in quality of ſoldiers, muſt be invincible, when the buſineſs is to perform quick marches in a difficult country, to ſtrike ſudden ſtrokes, beat up the enemy's quarters, harraſs their cavalry, and perform expeditions without the formality of magazines, baggage, forage, and artillery. The chieftainſhip of the Highlanders is a very dangerous influence operating at the extremity of the iſland, where the eyes and hands of government cannot be ſuppoſed to ſee and act with preciſion and vigour. In order to

break the force of clanſhip, adminiſtration has always practiſed the political maxim, *Divide et impera*. The legiſlature hath not only diſarmed theſe mountaineers, but alſo deprived them of their ancient garb, which contributed in a great meaſure to keep up their military ſpirit; and their ſlaviſh tenures are all diſſolved by act of parliament; ſo that they are at preſent as free and independent of their chiefs, as the law can make them: but the original attachment ſtill remains, and is founded on ſomething prior to the *feudal ſyſtem*, about which the writers of this age have made ſuch a pother, as if it was a new diſcovery, like the *Copernican ſyſtem*. Every peculiarity of policy, cuſtom, and even temperament, is affectedly traced to this origin, as if the feudal conſtitution had not been common to almoſt all the natives of Europe. For my part, I expect to ſee the uſe of trunk-hoſe and buttered ale aſcribed to the influence of the *feudal ſyſtem*. The connection between the clans and their chiefs is, without all doubt, *patriarchal*. It is founded on hereditary regard and affection, cheriſhed through a long ſucceſſion of ages. The clan conſider their chief as their father, they bear his name, they believe themſelves deſcended from his family, and they obey him as their lord, with all the ardour of filial love and veneration; while he, on his part, exerts a paternal authority, commanding, chaſtiſing, rewarding, protecting, and maintaining them as his own children. If the legiſlature would entirely deſtroy this connection, it muſt compel the Highlanders to change their habitation and their names. Even this experiment has been formerly tried without ſucceſs.—In the reign of James VI. a battle was fought within a few ſhort miles of this place, between two clans, the M'Gregors and the Colquhouns, in which the latter were defeated: the Laird of M'Gregor made ſuch a bar-

barous uſe of his victory, that he was forfeited and outlawed by act of parliament: his lands were given to the family of Montroſe, and his clan were obliged to change their name. They obeyed ſo far, as to call themſelves ſeverally Campbell, Graham, or Drummond, the ſurnames of the families of Argyle, Montroſe, and Perth, that they might enjoy the protection of thoſe houſes; but they ſtill added M'Gregor to their new appellation; and as their chief was deprived of his eſtate, they robbed and plundered for his ſubſiſtence.—Mr. Cameron of Lochiel, the chief of that clan, whoſe father was attainted for having been concerned in the laſt rebellion, returning from France in obedience to a proclamation and act of parliament, paſſed at the beginning of the late war, paid a viſit to his own country, and hired a farm in the neighbourhood of his father's houſe, which had been burnt to the ground. The clan, though ruined and ſcattered, no ſooner heard of his arrival than they flocked to him from all quarters, to welcome his return, and in a few days ſtocked his farm with ſeven hundred black cattle, which they had ſaved in the general wreck of their affairs: but their beloved chief, who was a promiſing youth, did not live to enjoy the fruits of their fidelity and attachment.

The moſt effectual method I know to weaken, and at length deſtroy this influence, is to employ the commonalty in ſuch a manner as to give them a taſte of property and independence—In vain the government grants them advantageous leaſes on the forfeited eſtates, if they have no property to proſecute the means of improvement—The ſea is an inexhauſtible fund of riches; but the fiſhery cannot be carried on without veſſels, caſks, ſalt, lines, nets, and other tackle. I converſed with a ſenſible man of this country, who from a real ſpirit of patriotiſm had ſet up

a fiſhery on the coaſt, and a manufacture of coarſe linen, for the employment of the poor Highlanders. Cod is here in ſuch plenty, that he told me he had ſeen ſeven hundred taken on one line, at one hawl—It muſt be obſerved, however, that the line was of immenſe length, and had two thouſand hooks, baited with muſſels; but the fiſh was ſo ſuperior to the cod caught on the banks of Newfoundland, that his correſpondent at Liſbon ſold them immediately at his own price, although Lent was juſt over when they arrived, and the people might be ſuppoſed quite cloyed with this kind of diet.—His linen manufacture was likewiſe in a proſperous way, when the late war intervening, all his beſt hands were preſſed into the ſervice.

It cannot be expected, that the gentlemen of this country ſhould execute commercial ſchemes to render their vaſſals independent; nor, indeed, are ſuch ſchemes ſuited to their way of life and inclination; but a company of merchants might, with proper management, turn to good account a fiſhery eſtabliſhed in this part of Scotland——Our people have a ſtrange itch to colonize America, when the uncultivated parts of our own iſland might be ſettled to greater advantage.

After having rambled through the mountains and glens of Argyle, we viſited the adjacent iſlands of Ila, Jura, Mull, and Icolmkill. In the firſt we ſaw the remains of a caſtle, built in a lake, where Macdonald, lord or king of the iſles, formerly reſided. Jura is famous for having given birth to one Mackcrain, who lived one hundred and eighty years in one houſe, and died in the reign of Charles the Second. Mull affords ſeveral bays, where there is ſafe anchorage; in one of which, the Florida, a ſhip of the Spaniſh armada, was blown up by one of Mr. Smol-

lett's anceſtors—About forty years ago, John duke of Argyle is ſaid to have conſulted the Spaniſh regiſters, by which it appeared, that this ſhip had the military cheſt on board—He employed experienced divers to examine the wreck; and they found the hull of the veſſel ſtill entire, but ſo covered with ſand that they could not make their way between-decks; however, they picked up ſeveral pieces of plate that were ſcattered about in the bay, and a couple of fine braſs cannon.

Icolmkill, or Iona, is a ſmall iſland which St. Columba choſe for his habitation—It was reſpected for its ſanctity, and college or ſeminary of eccleſiaſtics—Part of its church is ſtill ſtanding, with the tombs of ſeveral Scottiſh, Iriſh, and Daniſh ſovereigns, who were here interred—Theſe iſlanders are very bold and dexterous watermen, conſequently the better adapted to the fiſhery: in their manners they are leſs ſavage and impetuous than their countrymen on the continent; and they ſpeak the Erſe or Gaelic in its greateſt purity.

Having ſent round our horſes by land, we embarked in the diſtrict of Cowal for Greenock, which is a neat little town, on the other ſide of the Frith, with a curious harbour, formed by three ſtone jetties, carried out a good way into the ſea—Newport-Glaſgow is ſuch another place, about two miles higher up—Both have a face of buſineſs and plenty, and are ſupported entirely by the ſhipping of Glaſgow, of which I counted ſixty large veſſels in theſe harbours—Taking boat again at Newport, we were in leſs than an hour landed on the other ſide, within two ſhort miles of our head-quarters, where we found our women in good health and ſpirits—They had been two days before joined by Mr. Smollett and his lady, to whom

we have ſuch obligations as I cannot mention, even to you, without bluſhing.

To-morrow we ſhall bid adieu to the Scotch Arcadia, and begin our progreſs to the ſouthward, taking our way by Lanerk and Nithſdale, to the weſt-borders of England. I have received ſo much advantage and ſatisfaction from this tour, that if my health ſuffers no revolution in the winter, I believe I ſhall be tempted to undertake another expedition to the Northern extremity of Caithneſs, unencumbered by thoſe impediments which now clog the heels of,

Yours,

Cameron, Sept. 6. MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Miſs LÆTITIA WILLIS, at Glouceſter.

MY DEAREST LETTY,

NEVER did poor priſoner long for deliverance, more than I have longed for an opportunity to diſburthen my cares into your friendly boſom; and the occaſion which now preſents itſelf, is little leſs than miraculous—Honeſt Saunders Macawly, the travelling Scotchman, who goes every year to Wales, is now at Glaſgow, buying goods, and, coming to pay his reſpects to our family, has undertaken to deliver this letter into your own hand—We have been ſix weeks in Scotland, and ſeen the principal towns of the kingdom, where we have been treated with great civility—The people are very courteous; and the country, being exceedingly romantic, ſuits my turn and inclinations—I contracted ſome friendſhips at Edinburgh, which is a large and lofty city, full of gay

company; and, in particular, commenced an intimate correſpondence with one Miſs R—t—n, an amiable young lady of my own age, whoſe charms ſeemed to ſoften, and even to ſubdue, the ſtubborn heart of my brother Jery; but he no ſooner left the place than he relapſed into his former inſenſibility—I feel, however, that this indifference is not the family conſtitution—I never admitted but one idea of love, and that has taken ſuch root in my heart, as to be equally proof againſt all the pulls of diſcretion, and the froſts of neglect.

Dear Letty! I had an alarming adventure at the hunters ball in Edinburgh—While I ſat diſcourſing with a friend in a corner, all at once the very image of Wilſon ſtood before me, dreſſed exactly as he was in the character of Aimwell! It was one Mr. Gordon, whom I had not ſeen before—Shocked at the ſudden apparition, I fainted away, and threw the whole aſſembly in confuſion—However, the cauſe of my diſorder remained a ſecret to every body but my brother, who was likewiſe ſtruck with the reſemblance, and ſcolded after we came home—I am very ſenſible of Jery's affection, and know he ſpoke as well with a view to my own intereſt and happineſs, as in regard to the honour of the family; but I cannot bear to have my wounds probed ſeverely—I was not ſo much affected by the cenſure he paſſed upon my own indiſcretion, as with the reflection he made on the conduct of Wilſon—He obſerved, that if he was really the gentleman he pretended to be, and harboured nothing but honourable deſigns, he would have vindicated his pretenſions in the face of day—This remark made a deep impreſſion upon my mind——I endeavoured to conceal my thoughts; and this endeavour had a bad effect upon my health and ſpirits; ſo it was thought

neceſſary that I ſhould go to the Highlands, and drink the goat-milk-whey.

We went accordingly to Lough Lomond, one of the moſt enchanting ſpots in the whole world; and what with this remedy, which I had every morning freſh from the mountains, and the pure air, and chearful company, I have recovered my fleſh and appetite; though there is ſomething ſtill at bottom, which it is not in the power of air, exerciſe, company, or medicine, to remove——Theſe incidents would not touch me ſo nearly, if I had a ſenſible confidante to ſympathize with my affliction, and comfort me with wholeſome advice—I have nothing of this kind except Win. Jenkins, who is really a good body in the main, but very ill qualified for ſuch an office—The poor creature is weak in her nerves, as well as in her underſtanding; otherwiſe I might have known the true name and character of that unfortunate youth—But why do I call him *unfortunate?* Perhaps the epithet is more applicable to me for having liſtened to the falſe profeſſions of——But hold! I have as yet no right, and ſure I have no inclination, to believe any thing to the prejudice of his honour—In that reflection I ſhall ſtill exert my patience—As for Mrs. Jenkins, ſhe herſelf is really an object of compaſſion—Between vanity, Methodiſm, and love, her head is almoſt turned. I ſhould have more regard for her, however, if ſhe had been more conſtant in the object of her affection; but, truly, ſhe aimed at conqueſt, and flirted at the ſame time with my uncle's footman, Humphry Clinker, who is really a deſerving young man, and one Dutton, my brother's valet de chambre, a debauched fellow; who, leaving Win in the lurch, ran away with another man's bride at Berwick.

My dear Willis, I am truly aſhamed of my own ſex —— We complain of advantages which the

men take of our youth, inexperience, ſenſibility, and all that; but I have ſeen enough to believe, that our ſex in general make it their buſineſs to enſnare the other; and for this purpoſe employ arts which are by no means to be juſtified—In point of conſtancy, they have certainly nothing to reproach the male part of the creation—My poor aunt, without any regard to her years and imperfections, has gone to market with her charms in every place where ſhe thought ſhe had the leaſt chance to diſpoſe of her perſon, which, however, hangs ſtill heavy on her hands—I am afraid ſhe has uſed even religion as a decoy, though it has not anſwered her expectation——She has been praying, preaching, and catechiſing among the Methodiſts, with whom this country abounds; and pretends to have ſuch manifeſtations and revelations, as even Clinker himſelf can hardly believe, though the poor fellow is half crazy with enthuſiaſm. As for Jenkins, ſhe affects to take all her miſtreſs's reveries for goſpel—She has alſo her heart-heavings and motions of the ſpirit; and God forgive me if I think uncharitably, but all this ſeems to me to be downright hypocriſy and deceit—Perhaps, indeed, the poor girl impoſes on herſelf—She is generally in a flutter, and is much ſubject to vapours—Since we came to Scotland, ſhe has ſeen apparitions, and pretends to propheſy——If I could put faith in all theſe ſupernatural viſitations, I ſhould think myſelf abandoned of grace; for I have neither ſeen, heard, nor felt any thing of this nature, although I endeavour to diſcharge the duties of religion with all the ſincerity, zeal, and devotion, that is in the power of,

Dear Letty,

Your ever affectionate,

Glaſgow, Sept. 7. LYDIA MELFORD.

We are ſo far on our return to Brambleton-hall; and I would fain hope that we ſhall take Glouceſter in our way, in which caſe I ſhall have the inexpreſſible pleaſure of embracing my dear Willis—Pray remember me to my worthy governeſs.

To Mrs. MARY JONES, at Brambleton-hall.

DEAR MARY,

SUNDERS MACULLY, the Scotchman, who puſhes directly for Vails, has promiſed to give it you into your own hand, and therefore I would not miſs the opportunity to let you now as I am ſtill in the land of the living; and yet I have been on the brink of the other world ſince I ſent you my laſt letter.—We went by ſea to another kingdom called Fife, and coming back, had like to have gone to pot in a ſtorm.—What between the frite and ſickneſs, I thought I ſhould have brought my heart up; even Mr. Clinker was not his own man for eight-and-forty hours after we got aſhore.—It was well for ſome folks that we ſcaped drownding; for miſtreſs was very frexious, and ſeemed but indifferently prepared for a change; but, thank God, ſhe was ſoon put in a better frame by the private exaltations of the reverend Mr. Macrocodile.——We afterwards churned to Starling and Graſcow, which are a kiple of handſome towns; and then we went to a gentleman's houſe at Loſſ-Loming, which is a wonderful ſea of freſh water, with a power of hylands in the midſt on't.——They ſay as how it has got ne'er a bottom, and was made by a muſician; and, truly, I believe it; for it is not

in the coarſe of nature.—It has got *waves without wind, fiſh without fins, and a floating hyland*; and one of them is a crutch-yard, where the dead are buried; and always before the perſon dies, a bell rings of itſelf to give warning.

O Mary! this is the land of congyration—The bell knolled when we were there—I ſaw lights, and heard lamentations.—The gentleman, our landlord, has got another houſe, which he was fain to quit, on account of a miſchievious ghoſt, that would not ſuffer people to lie in their beds.—The fairies dwell in a hole of Kairmann, a mounting hard by; and they ſteal away the good women that are in the ſtraw, if ſo be as how there a'n't a horſhoe nailed to the door: and I was ſhewn an ould vitch, called Elſpath Ringavey, with a red petticoat, bleared eyes, and a mould of grey briſtles on her ſin.—That ſhe mought do me no harm, I croſſed her hand with a taſter, and bid her tell my fortune; and ſhe told me ſuch things—deſcriving Mr. Clinker to a hair—but it ſhall ne'er be ſaid that I minchioned a word of the matter.—As I was troubled with fits, ſhe adviſed me to bathe in the loff, which was holy water; and ſo I went in the morning to a private place along with the houſe-maid, and we bathed in our birth-day ſoot, after the faſhion of the country; and behold, whilſt we dabbled in the loff, Sir George Coon ſtarted up with a gun; but we clapt our hands to our faces, and paſſed by him to the place where we had left our ſmocks—A civil gentleman would have turned his head another way. My comfit is, he knew not which was which; and, as the ſaying is, *all cats in the dark are grey*.—Whilſt we ſtaid at Loff-Loming, he and our two 'ſquires went three or four days churning among the wild men of the mountings; a parcel of ſelvidges that lie in caves among the rocks, devour young chil-

dren, ſpeak Velch, but the vords are different. Our ladies would not part with Mr. Clinker, becauſe he is ſo ſtout, and ſo pyehouſe, that he fears neither man nor devils, if ſo be as they don't take him by ſurpriſe. Indeed, he was once ſo flurried by an operition, that he had like to have ſounded. He made believe as if it had been the ould edmiral; but the ould edmiral could not have made his air to ſtand on end, and his teeth to ſhatter; but he ſaid ſo in prudence, that the ladies mought not be affear'd.—Miſs Liddy has been puny, and like to go into a decline—I doubt her pore art is too tinder—but the got's-fey has ſat her on her legs again.—You nows got's-fey is mother's milk to a Velchvoman. As for miſtreſs, bleſſed be God, ſhe ails nothing—Her ſtomick is good, and ſhe improves in greaſe and godlineſs; but, for all that, ſhe may have infections like other people; and, I believe, ſhe wouldn't be ſorry to be called *your ladyſhip*, whenever Sir George thinks proper to ax the queſtion—But, for my part, whatever I may ſee or hear, not a particle ſhall ever paſs the lips of,

Dear Molly,

Your loving friend,

Graſco, Sept. 7. WIN. JENKINS.

Remember me, as uſual, to Sall.—We are now coming home, tho' not the neareſt road.—I do ſuppoſe, I ſhall find the kitten a fine boar at my return.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR KNIGHT,

ONCE more I tread upon Engliſh ground, which I like not the worſe for the ſix weeks' ramble I have made among the woods and mountains of Caledonia; no offence to the *land of cakes, where bannocks grow upon ſtraw*. I never ſaw my uncle in ſuch health and ſpirits as he now enjoys. Liddy is perfectly recovered; and Mrs. Tabitha has no reaſon to complain. Nevertheleſs, I belive ſhe was, till yeſterday, inclined to give the whole Scotch nation to the devil, as a pack of inſenſible brutes, upon whom her accompliſhments had been diſplayed in vain.—At every place where we halted, did ſhe mount the ſtage, and flouriſhed her ruſty arms, without being able to make one conqueſt. One of her laſt eſſays was againſt the heart of ſir George Colquhoun, with whom ſhe fought all the weapons more than twice over.—She was grave and gay by turns——She moralized and methodized——ſhe laughed, and romped, and danced, and ſung, and ſighed, and ogled, and liſped, and fluttered, and flattered—but all was preaching to the deſert—The baronet, being a well-bred man, carried his civilities as far as ſhe could in conſcience expect, and, if evil tongues are to be believed, ſome degrees farther; but he was too much a veteran in gallantry, as well as in war, to fall into any ambuſcade that ſhe could lay for his affection.—While we were abſent in the Highlands, ſhe practiſed alſo upon the laird of Ladriſhmore, and even gave him the rendezvous in the wood of Drumſcailloch; but the laird had

ſuch a reverend care of his own reputation, that he came attended with the parſon of the pariſh, and nothing paſſed but ſpiritual communication.—After all theſe miſcarriages, our aunt ſuddenly recollected lieutenant Liſmahago, whom, ever ſince our firſt arrival at Edinburgh, ſhe ſeemed to have utterly forgot; but now ſhe expreſſed her hopes of ſeeing him at Dumfries, according to his promiſe.

We ſet out for Glaſgow by the way of Lanerk, the county-town of Clydeſdale, in the neighbourhood of which the whole river Clyde, ruſhing down a ſteep rock, forms a very noble and ſtupendous caſcade. Next day we were obliged to halt in a ſmall borough, until the carriage, which had received ſome damage, ſhould be repaired; and here we met with an incident which warmly intereſted the benevolent ſpirit of Mr. Bramble.—As we ſtood at the window of an inn that fronted the public priſon, a perſon arrived on horſeback, genteelly, tho' plainly, dreſſed in a blue frock, with his own hair cut ſhort, and a gold-laced hat upon his head.—Alighting, and giving his horſe to the landlord, he advanced to an old man who was at work in paving the ſtreet, and accoſted him in theſe words: "This is hard work for ſuch an old "man as you."—So ſaying, he took the inſtrument out of his hand, and began to thump the pavement.—After a few ſtrokes, "Have you never a ſon (ſaid "he) to eaſe you of this labour?" "Yes, an pleaſe "your honour (replied the ſenior), I have three hope-"ful lads, but, at preſent, they are out of the "way." "Honour not me (cried the ſtranger); it "more becomes me to honour your grey hairs.—"Where are thoſe ſons you talk of?" The ancient paviour ſaid, his eldeſt ſon was a captain in the Eaſt-Indies; and the youngeſt had lately enliſted as a ſoldier, in hopes of proſpering like his brother. The

gentleman desiring to know what was become of the second, he wiped his eyes, and owned, he had taken upon him his old father's debts, for which he was now in the prison hard by.

The traveller made three quick steps towards the jail, then turning short, "Tell me (said he), has "that unnatural captain sent you nothing to relieve "your distresses?" "Call him not unnatural (replied "the other); God's blessing be upon him! he sent "me a great deal of money; but I made a bad use "of it; I lost it by being security for a gentleman "that was my landlord, and was stript of all I had in "the world besides." At that instant a young man, thrusting out his head and neck between two iron bars in the prison-window, exclaimed, "Father! "father! if my brother William is in life, that's he!" "I am!—I am!—(cried the stranger, clasping the "old man in his arms, and shedding a flood of tears)— "I am your son Willy, sure enough!" Before the father, who was quite confounded, could make any return to this tenderness, a decent old woman bolting out from the door of a poor habitation, cried, "Where "is my bairn? where is my dear Willy?"——The captain no sooner beheld her, than he quitted his father and ran into her embrace.

I can assure you, my uncle, who saw and heard every thing that passed, was as much moved as any one of the parties concerned in this pathetic recognition—He sobbed, and wept, and clapped his hands, and hallooed, and finally ran down into the street. By this time, the captain had retired with his parents, and all the inhabitants of the place were assembled at the door.—Mr. Bramble, nevertheless, pressed thro' the crowd, and entering the house, "Captain (said he), "I beg the favour of your acquaintance—I would have "travelled a hundred miles to see this affecting scene;

" and I ſhall think myſelf happy, if you and your pa-
" rents will dine with me at the public-houſe." The captain thanked him for his kind invitation, which, he ſaid, he would accept with pleaſure; but, in the mean time, he could not think of eating or drinking while his poor brother was in trouble.—He forthwith depoſited a ſum equal to the debt in the hands of the magiſtrate, who ventured to ſet his brother at liberty without farther proceſs; and then the whole family repaired to the inn with my uncle, attended by the crowd, the individuals of which ſhook their townſman by the hand, while he returned their careſſes without the leaſt ſign of pride or affectation.

This honeſt favourite of fortune, whoſe name was Brown, told my uncle, that he had been bred a weaver, and, about eighteen years ago, had, from a ſpirit of idleneſs and diſſipation, enliſted as a ſoldier in the ſervice of the Eaſt-India company; that, in the courſe of duty, he had the good fortune to attract the notice and approbation of lord Clive, who preferred him from one ſtep to another, till he attained the rank of captain and pay-maſter of the regiment, in which capacities he had honeſtly amaſſed above twelve thouſand pounds, and, at the peace, reſigned his commiſſion.—He had ſent ſeveral remittances to his father, who received the firſt only, conſiſting of one hundred pounds; the ſecond had fallen into the hands of a bankrupt; and the third had been conſigned to a gentleman of Scotland, who died before it arrived; ſo that it ſtill remained to be accounted for by his executors. He now preſented the old man with fifty pounds for his preſent occaſions, over and above bank-notes for one hundred, which he had depoſited for his brother's releaſe.—He brought along with him a deed ready executed, by which he ſettled a perpetuity of fourſcore pounds upon his parents, to be in-

herited by their other two ſons after their deceaſe.—He promiſed to purchaſe a commiſſion for his youngeſt brother; to take the other as his own partner in a manufacture which he intended to ſet up, to give employment and bread to the induſtrious; and to give five hundred pounds, by way of dower, to his ſiſter, who had married a farmer in low circumſtances.—Finally, he gave fifty pounds to the poor of the town where he was born, and feaſted all the inhabitants without exception.

My uncle was ſo charmed with the character of captain Brown, that he drank his health three times ſucceſſively at dinner.—He ſaid, he was proud of his acquaintance; that he was an honour to his country, and had in ſome meaſure redeemed human nature from the reproach of pride, ſelfiſhneſs, and ingratitude.—For my part, I wa as much pleaſed with the modeſty as with the filial virtue of this honeſt ſoldier, who aſſumed no merit from his ſucceſs, and ſaid very little of his own tranſactions, though the anſwers he made to our enquiries were equally ſenſible and laconic. Mrs. Tabitha behaved very graciouſly to him until ſhe underſtood that he was going to make a tender of his hand to a perſon of low eſtate, who had been his ſweetheart while he worked as a journeyman weaver.—Our aunt was no ſooner made acquainted with this deſign, than ſhe ſtarched up her behaviour with a double proportion of reſerve; and when the company broke up, ſhe obſerved, with a toſs of her noſe, that Brown was a civil fellow enough, conſidering the lowneſs of his origin; but that Fortune, though ſhe had mended his circumſtances, was incapable to raiſe his ideas, which were ſtill humble and plebeian.

On the day that ſucceeded this adventure, we went ſome miles out of our road to ſee Drumlanrig, a ſeat

belonging to the duke of Queenſbury, which appears like a magnificent palace erected by magic, in the midſt of a wilderneſs.—It is, indeed, a princely manſion, with ſuitable parks and plantations, rendered ſtill more ſtriking by the nakedneſs of the ſurrounding country, which is one of the wildeſt tracts in all Scotland.—This wildneſs, however, is different from that of the Highlands; for here the mountains, inſtead of heath, are covered with a fine green ſwarth, affording paſture to innumerable flocks of ſheep. But the fleeces of this country, called Nithſdale, are not comparable with the wool of Galloway, which is ſaid to equal that of Saliſbury plain. Having paſſed the night at the caſtle of Drumlanrig, by invitation from the duke himſelf, who is one of the beſt men that ever breathed, we proſecuted our journey to Dumfries, a very elegant trading town near the borders of England, where we found plenty of good proviſion and excellent wine, at very reaſonable prices, and the accommodation as good in all reſpects as in any part of South Britain.—If I was confined to Scotland for life, I would chuſe Dumfries as the place of my reſidence. Here we made inquiries about captain Liſmahago, of whom hearing no tidings, we proceeded, by the Solway Frith, to Carliſle. You muſt know, that the Solway ſands, upon which travellers paſs at low water, are exceedingly dangerous, becauſe, as the tide makes, they become quick in different places, and the flood ruſhes in ſo impetuouſly, that paſſengers are often overtaken by the ſea, and periſh.

In croſſing theſe treacherous Syrtes with a guide, we perceived a drowned horſe, which Humphry Clinker, after due inſpection, declared to be the very identical beaſt which Mr. Liſmahago rode when he parted with us at Felton-bridge, in Northumberland.

This information, which ſeemed to intimate that our friend, the lieutenant, had ſhared the fate of his horſe, affected us all, and above all our aunt Tabitha, who ſhed ſalt tears, and obliged Clinker to pull a few hairs out of the dead horſe's tail, to be worn in a ring as a remembrance of his maſter; but her grief and ours was not of long duration; for one of the firſt perſons we ſaw in Carliſle, was the lieutenant *in propria perſona*, bargaining with a horſe-dealer for another ſteed, in the yard of the inn where we alighted.—Mrs. Bramble was the firſt that perceived him, and ſcreamed as if ſhe had ſeen a ghoſt; and truly, at a proper time and place, he might very well have paſſed for an inhabitant of another world; for he was more meagre and grim than before.—We received him the more cordially for having ſuppoſed he had been drowned; and he was not deficient in expreſſions of ſatisfaction at this meeting.—He told us he had enquired for us at Dumfries, and been informed by a travelling merchant from Glaſgow, that we had reſolved to return by the way of Coldſtream.—He ſaid, that in paſſing the ſands without a guide, his horſe had knocked up; and he himſelf muſt have periſhed, if he had not been providentially relieved by a return poſt-chaiſe.—He, moreover, gave us to underſtand, that his ſcheme of ſettling in his own country having miſcarried, he was ſo far on his way to London, with a view to embark for North America, where he intended to paſs the reſt of his days among his old friends the Miamis, and amuſe himſelf in finiſhing the education of the ſon he had by his beloved Squinkinacooſta.

This project was by no means agreeable to our good aunt, who expatiated upon the fatigues and dangers that would attend ſuch a long voyage by ſea, and afterwards ſuch a tedious journey by land—She

enlarged particularly on the riſque he would run, with reſpect to the concerns of his precious ſoul, among ſavages who had not yet received the glad tidings of ſalvation; and ſhe hinted that his abandoning Great Britain might, perhaps, prove fatal to the inclinations of ſome deſerving perſon, whom he was qualified to make happy for life. My uncle, who is really a Don Quixote in generoſity, underſtanding that Liſmahago's real reaſon for leaving Scotland was the impoſſibility of ſubſiſting in it with any decency upon the wretched proviſion of a ſubaltern's half-pay, began to be warmly intereſted on the ſide of compaſſion.—He thought it very hard, that a gentleman who had ſerved his country with honour, ſhould be driven by neceſſity to ſpend his old age among the refuſe of mankind, in ſuch a remote part of the world.—He diſcourſed with me upon the ſubject; obſerving, that he would willingly offer the lieutenant an aſylum at Brambleton-hall, if he did not foreſee that his ſingularities and humour of contradiction would render him an intolerable houſe-mate, though his converſation at ſome times might be both inſtructive and entertaining: but, as there ſeemed to be ſomething particular in his attention to Mrs. Tabitha, he and I agreed in opinion, that this intercourſe ſhould be encouraged, and improved, if poſſible, into a matrimonial union; in which caſe there would be a comfortable proviſion for both; and they might be ſettled in a houſe of their own, ſo that Mr. Bramble ſhould have no more of their company than he deſired.

In purſuance of this deſign, Liſmahago has been invited to paſs the winter at Brambleton-hall, as it will be time enough to execute his American project in the ſpring.—He has taken time to conſider of this propoſal; mean while he will keep us company as

far as we travel in the road to Briſtol, where he has hopes of getting a paſſage for America. I make no doubt but that he will poſtpone his voyage, and proſecute his addreſſes to a happy conſummation; and ſure, if it produces any fruit, it muſt be of a very peculiar flavour. As the weather continues favourable, I believe, we ſhall take the Peak of Derbyſhire and Buxton Wells, in our way.—At any rate, from the firſt place where we make any ſtay, you ſhall hear again from

Yours always,

Carliſle, Sept. 12. J. MELFORD.

To Dr. LEWIS.

DEAR DOCTOR,

THE peaſantry of Scotland are certainly on a poor footing all over the kingdom; and yet they look better, and are better cloathed than thoſe of the ſame rank in Burgundy, and many other places of France and Italy; nay, I will venture to ſay they are better fed, notwithſtanding the boaſted wine of theſe foreign countries. The country people of North Britain live chiefly on oat-meal, and milk, cheeſe, butter, and ſome garden-ſtuff, with now and then a pickled herring, by way of delicacy; but fleſh-meat they ſeldom or never taſte; nor any kind of ſtrong liquor, except two-penny, at times of uncommon feſtivity—Their breakfaſt is a kind of haſty-pudding, of oat-meal, or peaſe-meal, eaten with milk. They have commonly pottage to dinner, compoſed of cale or

cole, leeks, barley, or big, and butter; and this is reinforced with bread and cheeſe, made of ſkimmed-milk—At night they ſup on ſowens, or flummery of oat-meal—In a ſcarcity of oats, they uſe the meal of barley and peaſe, which is both nouriſhing and palatable. Some of them have potatoes; and you find parſnips in every peaſant's garden—They are cloathed with a coarſe kind of ruſſet of their own making, which is both decent and warm—They dwell in poor huts, built of looſe ſtones and turf, without any mortar, having a fire-place or hearth in the middle, generally made of an old mill-ſtone, and a hole at top to let out the ſmoke.

Theſe people, however, are content, and wonderfully ſagacious—All of them read the bible, and are even qualified to diſpute upon the articles of their faith; which, in thoſe parts I have ſeen, is entirely Preſbyterian. I am told that the inhabitants of Aberdeenſhire are ſtill more acute. I once knew a Scotch gentleman at London, who had declared war againſt this part of his countrymen; and ſwore that the impudence and knavery of the Scots, in that quarter, had brought a reproach upon the whole nation.

The river Clyde, above Glaſgow, is quite paſtoral; and the banks of it are every where adorned with fine villas. From the ſea to its ſource, we may reckon the ſeats of many families of the firſt rank, ſuch as the duke of Argyle at Roſeneath, the earl of Bute in the iſle of that name, the earl of Glencairn at Finlayſton, lord Blantyre at Areſkine, the dutcheſs of Douglas at Bothwell, duke Hamilton at Hamilton, the duke of Douglas at Douglas, and the earl of Hyndford at Carmichael. Hamilton is a noble palace, magnificently furniſhed; and hard by is the village of that name, one of the neateſt little towns I have ſeen in any country. The old caſtle of Douglas being

burned to the ground by accident, the late duke reſolved, as head of the firſt family in Scotland, to have the largeſt houſe in the kingdom, and ordered a plan for this purpoſe; but there was only one wing of it finiſhed when he died. It is to be hoped that his nephew, who is now in poſſeſſion of his great fortune, will complete the deſign of his predeceſſor—Clydeſdale is in general populous and rich, containing a great number of gentlemen, who are independent in their fortune; but it produces more cattle than corn —This is alſo the caſe with Tweedale, through part of which we paſſed, and Nidſdale, which is generally rough, wild, and mountainous—Theſe hills are covered with ſheep; and this is the ſmall delicious mutton, ſo much preferable to that of the London market. As their feeding coſts ſo little, the ſheep are not killed till five years old, when their fleſh, juices, and flavour, are in perfection; but their fleeces are much damaged by the tar, with which they are ſmeared to preſerve them from the rot in winter, during which they run wild night and day, and thouſands are loſt under huge drifts of ſnow——'Tis pity the farmers cannot contrive ſome means to ſhelter this uſeful animal from the inclemencies of a rigorous climate, eſpecially from the perpetual rains, which are more prejudicial than the greateſt extremity of cold weather.

On the little river Nid is ſituated the caſtle of Drumlanrig, one of the nobleſt ſeats in Great-Britain, belonging to the duke of Queenſbury; one of thoſe few noblemen whoſe goodneſs of heart does honour to human nature—I ſhall not pretend to enter into a deſcription of this palace, which is really an inſtance of the ſublime in magnificence, as well as in ſituation, and puts one in mind of the beautiful city of Palmyra, riſing like a viſion in the midſt of the wil-

derneſs. His grace keeps open houſe, and lives with great ſplendour—He did us the honour to receive us with great courteſy, and detain us all night, together with above twenty other gueſts, with all their ſervants and horſes, to a very conſiderable number—The dutcheſs was equally gracious, and took our ladies under her immediate protection. The longer I live, I ſee more reaſon to believe that prejudices of education are never wholly eradicated, even when they are diſcovered to be erroneous and abſurd. Such habits of thinking as intereſt the grand paſſions, cleave to the human heart in ſuch a manner, that though an effort of reaſon may force them from their hold for a moment, this violence no ſooner ceaſes, than they reſume their graſp with an encreaſed elaſticity and adheſion.

I am led into this reflection, by what paſſed at the duke's table after ſupper. The converſation turned upon the vulgar notions of ſpirits and omens that prevail among the commonalty of North-Britain, and all the company agreed, that nothing could be more ridiculous. One gentleman, however, told a remarkable ſtory of himſelf, by way of ſpeculation "Being on a party of hunting in the North, (ſaid he) "I reſolved to viſit an old friend, whom I had not ſeen "for twenty years—ſo long he had been retired and "ſequeſtered from all his acquaintance, and lived in "a moping melancholy way, much afflicted with low-"neſs of ſpirits, occaſioned by the death of his wife, "whom he had loved with uncommon affection. As "he reſided in a remote part of the country, and we "were five gentlemen with as many ſervants, we "carried ſome proviſion with us from the next mar-"ket town, leſt we ſhould find him unprepared for "our reception. The roads being bad, we did not "arrive at the houſe till two o'clock in the afternoon;

" and were agreeably ſurpriſed to find a very good " dinner ready in the kitchen, and the cloth laid with " ſix covers. My friend himſelf appeared in his beſt " apparel at the gate, and received us with open arms, " telling me he had been expecting us theſe two hours " —Aſtoniſhed at this declaration, I aſked who had " given him intelligence of our coming? and he " ſmiled, without making any other reply—Howe- " ver, preſuming upon our former intimacy, I after- " wards inſiſted upon knowing; and he told me, " very gravely, he had ſeen me in a viſion of the ſe- " cond-fight—Nay, he called in the evidence of his " ſteward, who ſolemnly declared, that his maſter " had the day before appriſed him of my coming, with " four other ſtrangers, and ordered him to provide " accordingly; in conſequence of which intimation, " he had prepared the dinner which we were now " eating; and laid the covers according to the num- " ber foretold." The incident we all owned to be remarkable, and I endeavoured to account for it by natural means. I obſerved, that as the gentleman was of a viſionary turn, the caſual idea, or remembrance of his old friend, might ſuggeſt thoſe circumſtances, which accident had for once realized; but that in all probability he had ſeen many viſions of the ſame kind, which were never verified. None of the company directly diſſented from my opinion; but from the objections that were hinted, I could plainly perceive, that the majority were perſuaded there was ſomething more extraordinary in the caſe.

Another gentleman of the company, addreſſing himſelf to me, " Without all doubt, (ſaid he) a diſ- " eaſed imagination is very apt to produce viſions; " but we muſt find ſome other method to account " for ſomething of this kind, that happened within " theſe eight days in my neighbourhood——A gen-

" tleman of a good family, who cannot be deemed a " viſionary in any ſenſe of the word, was near his " own gate, in the twilight, viſited by his grandfa- " ther, who has been dead theſe fifteen years—The " ſpectre was mounted ſeemingly on the very horſe he " uſed to ride, with an angry and terrible counte- " nance, and ſaid ſomething, which his grandſon, in " the confuſion of his fear, could not underſtand. " But this was not all—He lifted up a huge horſe- " whip, and applied it with great violence to his back " and ſhoulders, on which I ſaw the impreſſion with " my own eyes. The apparition was afterwards ſeen " by the ſexton of the pariſh, hovering about the " tomb where his body lies interred; as the man de- " clared to ſeveral perſons in the village, before he " knew what had happened to the gentleman—Nay, " he actually came to me as a juſtice of the peace, in " order to make oath of theſe particulars, which, " however, I declined adminiſtering. As for the " grandſon of the defunct, he is a ſober, ſenſible, " worldly-minded fellow, too intent upon ſchemes " of intereſt to give into reveries. He would have " willingly concealed the affair; but he bawled out " in the firſt tranſport of his fear, and, running into " the houſe, expoſed his back and his ſconce to the " whole family; ſo that there was no denying it in " the ſequel. It is now the common diſcourſe of " the country, that this appearance and behaviour of " the old man's ſpirit portends ſome great calamity " to the family, and the good woman has actually " taken to her bed in this apprehenſion."

Though I did not pretend to explain this myſtery, I ſaid I did not at all doubt but it would one day appear to be a deception; and, in all probability, a ſcheme executed by ſome enemy of the perſon who had ſuſtained the aſſault; but ſtill the gentleman in-

fisted upon the clearness of the evidence, and the concurrence of testimony, by which two creditable witnesses, without any communication one with another, affirmed the appearance of the same man, with whose person they were both well acquainted—From Drumlanrig we pursued the course of the Nid to Dumfries, which stands several miles above the place where the river falls into the sea; and is, after Glasgow, the handsomest town I have seen in Scotland—The inhabitants, indeed, seem to have proposed that city as their model; not only in beautifying their town and regulating its police, but also in prosecuting their schemes of commerce and manufacture, by which they are grown rich and opulent.

We re-entered England by the way of Carlisle, where we accidentally met with our friend Lismahago, whom we had in vain inquired after at Dumfries and other places—It would seem that the captain, like the prophets of old, is but little honoured in his own country, which he has now renounced for ever—He gave me the following particulars of his visit to his native soil—In his way to the place of his nativity, he learned that his nephew had married the daughter of a bourgeois who directed a weaving manufacture, and had gone into partnership with his father-in-law: chagrined with this information, he had arrived at the gate in the twilight, where he heard the sound of treddles in the great hall, which had exasperated him to such a degree, that he had like to have lost his senses: while he was thus transported with indignation, his nephew chanced to come forth, when, being no longer master of his passion, he cried, "Degenerate rascal! you have made my father's "house a den of thieves;" and at the same time chastised him with his horse-whip; then, riding round the adjoining village, he had visited the burying-ground

of his anceſtors by moon-light; and, having paid his reſpects to their *manes*, travelled all night to another part of the country——Finding the head of his family in ſuch a diſgraceful ſituation, all his own friends dead or removed from the places of their former reſidence, and the expence of living encreaſed to double of what it had been, when he firſt left his native country, he had bid it an eternal adieu, and was determined to ſeek for repoſe among the foreſts of America.

I was no longer at a loſs to account for the apparition which had been deſcribed at Drumlanrig; and when I repeated the ſtory to the lieutenant, he was much pleaſed to think his reſentment had been ſo much more effectual than he intended; and he owned, he might at ſuch an hour, and in ſuch an equipage, very well paſs for the ghoſt of his father, whom he was ſaid greatly to reſemble.—Between friends, I fancy Liſmahago will find a retreat without going ſo far as the wigwams of the Miamis. My ſiſter Tabby is making continual advances to him, in the way of affection; and, if I may truſt to appearances, the captain is diſpoſed to take opportunity by the forelock. For my part, I intend to encourage this correſpondence, and ſhall be glad to ſee them united—In that caſe, we ſhall find a way to ſettle them comfortably in our own neighbourhood. I and my ſervants will get rid of a very troubleſome and tyrannic gouvernante; and I ſhall have the benefit of Liſmahago's converſation, without being obliged to take more of his company than I deſire; for though an olio is an high-flavoured diſh, I could not bear to dine upon it every day of my life.

I am much pleaſed with Mancheſter, which is one of the moſt agreeable and flouriſhing towns in Great-Britain; and I perceive that this is the place

which hath animated the ſpirit, and ſuggeſted the chief manufactures of Glaſgow. We propoſe to viſit Chatſworth, the Peak, and Buxton, from which laſt place we ſhall proceed directly homewards, though by eaſy journies. If the ſeaſon has been as favourable in Wales as in the North, your harveſt is happily finiſhed; and we have nothing left to think of but our October, of which let Barnes be properly reminded. You will find me much better in fleſh than I was at our parting; and this ſhort ſeparation has given a new edge to thoſe ſentiments of friendſhip with which I always have been, and ever ſhall be,

Yours,

Mancheſter, Sept. 15. MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Mrs. GWYLLIM, houſe-keeper, at Brambleton-hall.

MRS. GWYLLIM,

IT has pleaſed Providence to bring us ſafe back to England, and partake us in many pearls by land and water, in particular the *Devil's Harſe a-pike*, and *Hoyden's Hole*, which hath got no bottom; and, as we are drawing huomwards, it may be proper to upriſe you, that Brambleton-hall may be in a condition to receive us, after this long gurney to the iſlands of Scotland. By the firſt of next month you may begin to make conſtant fires in my brother's chamber and mine; and burn a fagget every day in the yellow damaſk room: have the teſter and curtains duſted, and the fatherbed and matroſſes well haired, becauſe, perhaps, with the bliſſing of haven, they may be

yooſed on ſome occaſion. Let the ould hogſheads be well ſkewred and ſeaſoned for bear, as Mat is reſolved to have his ſeller choak fool.

If the houſe was mine, I would turn over a new leaf—I don't ſee why the ſarvants of Wales ſhouldn't drink fair water, and eat hot cakes and barley cale, as they do in Scotland, without troubling the botcher above once a quarter—I hope you keep accunt of Roger's purſeeding in reverence to the butter-milk. I expect my dew when I come huom, without baiting an aſs, I'll aſſure you.—As you muſt have layed a great many more eggs than would be eaten, I do ſuppoſe there is a power of turks, chickings, and guzzling about the houſe; and a brave kergo of cheeſe ready for market; and that the owl has been ſent to Crickhowel, ſaving what the maids ſpun in the family.

Pray let the whole houſe and furniture have a thorough cleaning from top to bottom, for the honour of Wales; and let Roger ſearch into, and make a general clearance of the ſlit-holes which the maids have in ſecret; for I know they are much given to ſloth and uncleanneſs. I hope you have worked a reformation among them, as I exhorted you in my laſt, and ſet their hearts upon better things than they can find in junkitting and caterwauling with the fellows of the country.

As for Win Jenkins, ſhe has undergone a perfect metamurphyſis, and is become a new creeter from the ammunition of Humphry Clinker, our new footman, a pious young man, who has laboured exceedingly, that ſhe may bring forth fruits of repentance. I make no doubt but he will take the ſame pains with that pert huſſey Mary Jones, and all of you; and that he may have power given to penetrate and

inſtil his goodneſs, even into your moſt inward parts, is the fervent prayer of

Your friend in the ſpirit,

Septr. 18. TAB. BRAMBLE.

To Dr. LEWIS.

DEAR LEWIS,

LISMAHAGO is more parodoxical than ever.—The late gulp he had of his native air, ſeems to have blown freſh ſpirit into all his polemical faculties. I congratulated him the other day on the preſent flouriſhing ſtate of his country, obſerving, that the Scots were now in a fair way to wipe off the national reproach of poverty, and expreſſing my ſatisfaction at the happy effects of the Union, ſo conſpicuous in the improvement of their agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and manners—The lieutenant, ſcrewing up his features into a look of diſſent and diſguſt, commented on my remarks to this effect——"Thoſe "who reproach a nation for its poverty, when it is "not owing to the profligacy or vice of the people, "deſerve no anſwer. The Lacedæmonians were "poorer than the Scots, when they took the lead "among all the free ſtates of Greece, and were "eſteemed above them all for their valour and their "virtue. The moſt reſpectable heroes of ancient "Rome, ſuch as Fabricius, Cincinnatus, and Regulus, "were poorer than the pooreſt freeholder in Scot-"land; and there are at this day individuals in North-"Britain, one of whom can produce more gold and "ſilver than the whole republic of Rome could raiſe "at thoſe times when her public virtue ſhone with

" unrivalled luſtre; and poverty was ſo far from
" being a reproach, that it added freſh laurels to her
" fame, becauſe it indicated a noble contempt of
" wealth, which was proof againſt all the arts of cor-
" ruption—If poverty be a ſubject for reproach, it
" follows that wealth is the object of eſteem and
" veneration—In that caſe, there are Jews and others
" in Amſterdam and London, enriched by uſury,
" peculation, and different ſpecies of fraud and ex-
" tortion, who are more eſtimable than the moſt vir-
" tuous and illuſtrious members of the community;
" an abſurdity which no man in his ſenſes will offer
" to maintain.—Riches are certainly no proof of me-
" rit: nay, they are often (if not moſt commonly)
" acquired by perſons of ſordid minds and mean ta-
" lents: nor do they give any intrinſic worth to the
" poſſeſſor; but, on the contrary, tend to pervert
" his underſtanding, and render his morals more de-
" praved. But, granting that poverty were really
" matter of reproach, it cannot be juſtly imputed to
" Scotland. No country is poor that can ſupply its
" inhabitants with the neceſſaries of life, and even
" afford articles for exportation. Scotland is rich in
" natural advantages: it produces every ſpecies of
" proviſion in abundance, vaſt herds of cattle and
" flocks of ſheep, with a great number of horſes;
" prodigious quantities of wool and flax, with plenty
" of copſe wood, and in ſome parts large foreſts of
" timber. The earth is ſtill more rich below than
" above the ſurface. It yields inexhauſtible ſtores of
" coal, free-ſtone, marble, lead, iron, copper, and
" ſilver, with ſome gold. The ſea abounds with
" excellent fiſh, and ſalt to cure them for exportation;
" and there are creeks and harbours round the whole
" kingdom, for the convenience and ſecurity of navi-
" gation. The face of the country diſplays a ſuc-

"prising number of cities, towns, villas, and villages, "swarming with people; and there seems to be no "want of art, industry, government, and police: such "a kingdom can never be called poor, in any sense "of the word, though there may be many others "more powerful and opulent. But the proper use of "those advantages, and the present prosperity of the "Scots, you seem to derive from the union of the two "kingdoms!"

I said, I supposed he would not deny that the appearance of the country was much mended; that the people lived better, had more trade, and a greater quantity of money circulating since the Union, than before. "I may safely admit these premises, (answered the lieutenant) without subscribing to your "inference. The difference you mention, I should "take to be the natural progress of improvement—"Since that period, other nations, such as the Swedes, "the Danes, and in particular the French, have greatly encreased in commerce, without any such cause "assigned. Before the Union, there was a remarkable spirit of trade among the Scots, as appeared "in the case of their Darien company, in which "they had embarked no less than four hundred thousand pounds sterling; and in the flourishing state "of the maritime towns in Fife, and on the eastern "coast, enriched by their trade with France, which "failed in consequence of the Union. The only "solid commercial advantage reaped from that measure, was the privilege of trading to the English "plantations; yet, excepting Glasgow and Dumfries, I don't know any other Scots towns concerned in that traffic. In other respects, I conceive the Scots were losers by the Union.—They "lost the independency of their state, the greatest "prop of national spirit; they lost their parliament,

" and their courts of juſtice were ſubjected to the " reviſion and ſupremacy of an Engliſh tribunal.

" Softly, captain, (cried I) you cannot be ſaid to " have loſt your own parliament, while you are re- " preſented in that of Great Britain." " True, (ſaid " he, with a ſarcaſtic grin) in debates of national " competition, the ſixteen peers and forty-five com- " moners of Scotland muſt make a formidable figure " in the ſcale, againſt the whole Engliſh legiſlature." " Be that as it may, (I obſerved) while I had the " honour to ſit in the lower houſe, the Scotch mem- " bers had always the majority on their ſide." " I un- " derſtand you, Sir, (ſaid he) they generally ſide " with the majority; ſo much the worſe for their " conſtituents. But even this evil is not the worſt " they have ſuſtained by the Union. Their trade " has been ſaddled with grievous impoſitions, and " every article of living ſeverely taxed, to pay the " intereſt of enormous debts, contracted by the En- " gliſh in ſupport of meaſures and connections in " which the Scots had no intereſt nor concern." I begged he would at leaſt allow, that by the Union the Scots were admitted to all the privileges and immu- nities of Engliſh ſubjects; by which means multitudes of them were provided for in the army and navy, and got fortunes in different parts of England, and its do- minions. " All theſe (ſaid he) become Engliſh " ſubjects to all intents and purpoſes, and are in a " great meaſure loſt to their mother-country. The " ſpirit of rambling and adventure has been always " peculiar to the natives of Scotland. If they had " not met with encouragement in England, they " would have ſerved and ſettled, as formerly, in " other countries, ſuch as Muſcovy, Sweden, Den- " mark, Poland, Germany, France, Piedmont, and

" Italy, in all which nations their deſcendants con-
" tinue to flouriſh even at this day."

By this time my patience began to fail, and I exclaimed, " For God's ſake, what has England got " by this Union which, you ſay, has been ſo pro-
" ductive of misfortune to the Scots ?" " Great and " manifold are the advantages which England derives " from the Union (ſaid Liſmahago, in a ſolemn tone). " Firſt and foremoſt, the ſettlement of the Proteſtant " ſucceſſion, a point which the Engliſh miniſtry drove " with ſuch eagerneſs, that no ſtone was left un-
" turned to cajole and bribe a few leading men to " cram the Union down the throats of the Scottiſh " nation, who were ſurpriſingly averſe to the expe-
" dient. They gained by it a conſiderable addition " of territory, extending their dominion to the ſea " on all ſides of the iſland, thereby ſhutting up all " back-doors againſt the enterprizes of their ene-
" mies. They got an acceſſion of above a million of " uſeful ſubjects, conſtituting a never-failing nurſery " of ſeamen, ſoldiers, labourers, and mechanics; " a moſt valuable acquiſition to a trading country, " expoſed to foreign wars, and obliged to maintain " a number of ſettlements in all the four quarters of " the globe. In the courſe of ſeven years, during " the laſt war, Scotland furniſhed the Engliſh army " and navy with ſeventy thouſand men, over and " above thoſe who migrated to their colonies, or " mingled with them at home in the civil depart-
" ments of life. This was a very conſiderable and " ſeaſonable ſupply to a nation, whoſe people had " been for many years decreaſing in number, and " whoſe lands and manufactures were actually ſuf-
" fering for want of hands. I need not remind you " of the hackneyed maxim, that, to a nation in ſuch " circumſtances, a ſupply of induſtrious people is a

" ſupply of wealth; nor repeat an obſervation,
" which is now received as an eternal truth, even
" among the Engliſh themſelves, that the Scots who
" ſettle in South Britain are remarkably ſober, or-
" derly, and induſtrious."

I allowed the truth of this remark, adding, that by their induſtry, œconomy, and circumſpection, many of them in England, as well as in her colonies, amaſſed large fortunes, with which they returned to their own country, and this was ſo much loſt to South Britain. —— " Give me leave, ſir, (ſaid he)
" to aſſure you, that in your fact you are miſtaken,
" and in your deduction, erroneous.——Not one in
" two hundred that leave Scotland ever returns to
" ſettle in his own country; and the few that do
" return, carry thither nothing that can poſſibly di-
" miniſh the ſtock of South Britain; for none of
" their treaſure ſtagnates in Scotland. — There is a
" continual circulation, like that of the blood in the
" human body, and England is the heart to which
" all the ſtreams which it diſtributes are refunded and
" returned: nay, in conſequence of that luxury
" which our connexion with England hath greatly
" encouraged, if not introduced, all the produce of
" our lands, and all the profits of our trade, are en-
" groſſed by the natives of South Britain; for you
" will find that the exchange between the two king-
" doms is always againſt Scotland; and that ſhe re-
" tains neither gold nor ſilver ſufficient for her own
" circulation. —— The Scots not content with their
" own manufactures and produce, which would
" very well anſwer all neceſſary occaſions, ſeem to
" vie with each other in purchaſing ſuperfluities
" from England; ſuch as broad-cloth, velvets,
" ſtuffs, ſilk, lace, furs, jewels, furniture of all
" ſorts, ſugar, rum, tea, chocolate and coffee; in

"a word, not only every mode of the moſt "extravagant luxury, but even many articles of "convenience, which they might find as good, and "much cheaper in their own country. For all theſe "particulars, I conceive, England may touch about "one million ſterling a-year.—I don't pretend to "make an exact calculation; perhaps it may be ſome-"thing leſs, and, perhaps, a great deal more.—The "annual revenue ariſing from all the private eſtates "of Scotland cannot fall ſhort of a million ſterling; "and, I ſhould imagine, their trade will amount to "as much more.—I know, the linen manufacture "alone returns near half a million, excluſive of the "home-conſumption of that article.—If, therefore, "North-Britain pays a balance of a million annually "to England, I inſiſt upon it, that country is more "valuable to her in the way of commerce, than any "colony in her poſſeſſion, over and above the other "advantages which I have ſpecified; therefore they "are no friends either to England or to truth, who "affect to depreciate the northern part of the united "kingdom."

I muſt own, I was at firſt a little nettled to find myſelf ſchooled in ſo many particulars.——Though I did not receive all his aſſertions as goſpel, I was not prepared to refute them; and I cannot now help acquieſcing in his remarks ſo far as to think, that the contempt for Scotland, which prevails too much on this ſide the Tweed, is founded on prejudice and error.—After ſome recollection, "Well, captain, (ſaid I) you "have argued ſtoutly for the importance of your own "country: for my part, I have ſuch a regard for our "fellow-ſubjects of North Britain, that I ſhall be "glad to ſee the day, when your peaſants can afford "to give all their oats to their cattle, hogs, and "poultry, and indulge themſelves with good wheaten

" loaves, inſtead of ſuch poor, unpalateable, and in-
" flammatory diet." Here again I brought myſelf into a premunire with the diſputatious Caledonian. He ſaid, he hoped he ſhould never ſee the common people lifted out of that ſphere for which they were intended by nature and the courſe of things; that they might have ſome reaſon to complain of their bread, if it were mixed, like that of Norway, with ſaw-duſt and fiſh-bones; but that oatmeal was, he apprehended, as nouriſhing and ſalutary as wheat-flour, and the Scots in general thought it at leaſt as ſavoury. H—e affirmed, that a mouſe, which, in the article of ſelf-preſervation, might be ſuppoſed to act from infallible inſtinct, would always prefer oats to wheat, as appeared from experience; for, in a place where there was a parcel of each, that animal had never begun to feed upon the latter till all the oats were conſumed: for their nutritive quality, he appealed to the hale robuſt conſtitutions of the people who lived chiefly upon oatmeal; and, inſtead of being inflammatory, he aſſerted, that it was a cooling ſubacid, balſamic and mucilaginous; inſomuch, that in all inflammatory diſtempers, recourſe was had to water-gruel, and flummery made of oatmeal.

" At leaſt, (ſaid I) give me leave to wiſh them
" ſuch a degree of commerce as may enable them to
" follow their own inclinations."——" Heaven for-
" bid! (cried this philoſopher) Woe be to that na-
" tion, where the multitude is at liberty to follow
" their own inclinations! Commerce is undoubtedly
" a bleſſing, while reſtrained within its proper chan-
" nels; but a glut of wealth brings along with it a
" glut of evils: it brings falſe taſte, falſe appetite,
" falſe wants, profuſion, venality, contempt of order,
" engendering a ſpirit of licentiouſneſs, inſolence, and
" faction, that keeps the community in continual

" ferment, and in time deſtroys all the diſtinctions of " civil ſociety; ſo that univerſal anarchy and uproar " muſt enſue. Will any ſenſible man affirm, that " the national advantages of opulence are to be ſought " on theſe terms?" " No, ſure; but I am one of thoſe " who think, that, by proper regulations, commerce " may produce every national benefit, without the " allay of ſuch concomitant evils."

So much for the dogmata of my friend Liſmahago, whom I deſcribe the more circumſtantially, as I firmly believe he will ſet up his reſt in Monmouthſhire. Yeſterday, while I was alone with him, he aſked, in ſome confuſion, if I ſhould have any objection to the ſucceſs of a gentleman and a ſoldier, provided he ſhould be ſo fortunate as to engage my ſiſter's affection. I anſwered, without heſitation, that my ſiſter was old enough to judge for herſelf; and that I ſhould be very far from diſapproving any reſolution ſhe might take in his favour.—His eyes ſparkled at this declaration. He declared, he ſhould think himſelf the happieſt man on earth to be connected with my family; and that he ſhould never be weary of giving me proofs of his gratitude and attachment. I ſuppoſe Tabby and he are already agreed; in which caſe, we ſhall have a wedding at Brambleton-hall, and you ſhall give away the bride. It is the leaſt thing you can do, by way of atonement for your former cruelty to that poor love-ſick maiden, who has been ſo long a thorn in the ſide of

Yours,

Sept. 20. MATT. BRAMBLE.

We have been at Buxton; but, as I did not much reliſh either the company or the accommodations, and had no occaſion for the water, we ſtayed but two nights in the place.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR WAT,

ADVENTURES begin to thicken as we advance to the ſouthward.—Liſmahago has now profeſſed himſelf the admirer of our aunt, and carries on his addreſſes under the ſanction of her brother's approbation; ſo that we ſhall certainly have a wedding by Chriſtmas. I ſhould be glad you was preſent at the nuptials, to help me to throw the ſtocking, and perform other ceremonies peculiar to that occaſion—I am ſure it will be productive of ſome diverſion; and, truly, it would be worth while to come acroſs the country on purpoſe to ſee two ſuch original figures in bed together, with their laced night-caps; he, the emblem of good chear, and ſhe the picture of good-nature. All this agreeable proſpect was clouded, and had well-nigh vaniſhed entirely, in conſequence of a late miſunderſtanding between the future brothers-in-law, which, however, is now happily removed.

A few days ago, my uncle and I, going to viſit a relation, met with lord Oxmington at his houſe, who aſked us to dine with him next day, and we accepted the invitation.—Accordingly, leaving our women under the care of captain Liſmahago, at the inn where we had lodged the preceding night, in a little town, about a mile from his lordſhip's dwelling, we went at the hour appointed, and had a faſhionable meal ſerved up with much oſtentation to a company of about a dozen perſons, none of whom we had ever ſeen before—His Lordſhip is much more remarkable

for his pride and caprice, than for his hoſpitality and underſtanding; and, indeed, it appeared, that he conſidered his gueſts merely as objects to ſhine upon, ſo as to reflect the luſtre of his own magnificence.—There was much ſtate, but no courteſy; and a great deal of compliment without any converſation.—Before the deſert was removed, our noble entertainer propoſed three general toaſts; then calling for a glaſs of wine, and bowing all round, wiſhed us a good afternoon. This was the ſignal for the company to break up, and they obeyed it immediately, all except our 'ſquire, who was greatly ſhocked at the manner of this diſmiſſion.—He changed countenance, bit his lip in ſilence, but ſtill kept his ſeat, ſo that his lordſhip found himſelf obliged to give us another hint, by ſaying, he ſhould be glad to ſee us another time. "There is no time like the time preſent (cried Mr. Bramble); your lordſhip has not yet "drank a bumper to *the beſt in Chriſtendom*." "I'll "drink no more bumpers to-day (anſwered our "landlord); and I am ſorry to ſee you have drank "too many.—Order the gentleman's carriage to the "gate."—So ſaying, he roſe and retired abruptly; our 'ſquire ſtarting up at the ſame time, laying his hand upon his ſword, and eyeing him with a moſt ferocious aſpect. The maſter having vaniſhed in this manner, our uncle bade one of the ſervants to ſee what was to pay; and the fellow anſwering, "This "is no inn:" "I cry you mercy (cried the other), I "perceive it is not; if it were, the landlord would "be more civil.—There's a guinea, however; take it, and tell your lord, that I ſhall not leave the country till I have had an opportunity to thank him in perſon for his politeneſs and hoſpitality."

We then walked down ſtairs through a double range of lacqueys, and getting into the chaiſe, pro-

ceeded homewards. Perceiving the 'ſquire much ruffled, I ventured to diſapprove of his reſentment, obſerving, that as lord Oxmington was well known to have his brain very ill timbered, a ſenſible man ſhould rather laugh, than be angry at his ridiculous want of breeding.—Mr. Bramble took umbrage at my preſuming to be wiſer than he upon this occaſion; and he told me, that as he had always thought for himſelf in every occurrence in life, he would ſtill uſe the ſame privilege, with my good leave.

When we returned to our inn, he cloſeted Liſmahago; and having explained his grievance, deſired that gentleman to go and demand ſatisfaction of lord Oxmington in his name.—The lieutenant charged himſelf with this commiſſion, and immediately ſet out on horſeback for his lordſhip's houſe, attended, at his own requeſt, by my man Archy Macalpine, who had been uſed to military ſervice; and truly, if Macalpine had been mounted upon an aſs, this couple might have paſſed for the knight of La Mancha and his 'ſquire Panza. It was not till after ſome demur that Liſmahago obtained a private audience, at which he formally defied his lordſhip to ſingle combat, in the name of Mr. Bramble, and deſired him to appoint the time and place. Lord Oxmington was ſo confounded at this unexpected meſſage, that he could not, for ſome time, make any articulate reply; but ſtood ſtaring at the lieutenant with manifeſt marks of perturbation. At length, ringing a bell with great vehemence, he exclaimed, "What "a commoner ſend a challenge to a peer of the realm "—Privilege! privilege!—Here's a perſon bring "me a challenge from the Welſhman that dined "my table—An impudent fellow!—My wine is "yet out of his head."

The whole house was immediately in commotion—Macalpine made a soldierly retreat with the two horses; but the captain was suddenly surrounded and disarmed by the footmen, whom a French valet de chambre headed in this exploit; his sword was passed through a close-stool, and his person through the horse-pond.—In this plight he returned to the inn, half-mad with his disgrace.—So violent was the rage of his indignation, that he mistook its object.—He wanted to quarrel with Mr. Bramble; he said, he had been dishonoured on his account, and he looked for reparation at his hands—My uncle's back was up in a moment; and he desired him to explain his pretensions.—"Either compel lord Oxmington to give me "satisfaction (cried he), or give it me in your own "person." "The latter part of the alternative is "the most easy and expeditious (replied the 'squire, "starting up): if you are disposed for a walk, I'll "attend you this moment."

Here they were interrupted by Mrs. Tabby, who had overheard all that passed.—She now burst into the room, and running betwixt them, in great agitation, "Is this your regard for me (said she to the "lieutenant) to seek the life of my brother?" Lismahago, who seemed to grow cool as my uncle grew hot, assured her he had a very great respect for Mr. Bramble, but he had still more for his own honour, which had suffered pollution; but if that could be once purified, he should have no further cause of dissatisfaction—The 'squire said, he should have thought it incumbent upon him to vindicate the lieutenant's honour; but, as he had now carved for himself, he might swallow and digest it as well as he could——In a word, what betwixt the mediation of Mrs. Tabitha, the recollection of the captain, who perceived he had gone too far, and the

remonſtrances of your humble ſervant, who joined them at this juncture, thoſe two originals were perfectly reconciled: and then we proceeded to deliberate upon the means of taking vengeance for the inſults they had received from the petulant peer; for, until that aim ſhould be accompliſhed, Mr. Bramble ſwore, with great emphaſis, that he would not leave the inn where we now lodged, even if he ſhould paſs his Chriſtmas on the ſpot.

In conſequence of our deliberations, we next day, in the forenoon, proceeded in a body to his lordſhip's houſe, all of us, with our ſervants, including the coachman, mounted a-horſeback, with our piſtols loaded and ready primed.—Thus prepared for action, we paraded ſolemnly and ſlowly before his lordſhip's gate, which we paſſed three times in ſuch a manner, that he could not but ſee us, and ſuſpect the cauſe of our appearance.—After dinner we returned, and performed the ſame cavalcade, which was again repeated the morning following; but we had no occaſion to perſiſt in theſe manœuvres.—About noon we were viſited by the gentleman at whoſe houſe we had firſt ſeen lord Oxmington.—He now came to make apologies in the name of his lordſhip, who declared he had no intention to give offence to my uncle, in practiſing what had been always the cuſtom of his houſe; and that as for the indignities which had been put upon the officer, they were offered without his lordſhip's knowledge, at the inſtigation of his valet de chambre.—"If that be the caſe, (ſaid "my uncle, in a peremptory tone) I ſhall be con-"tented with lord Oxmington's perſonal excuſes; "and I hope my friend will be ſatisfied with his "lordſhip's turning that inſolent raſcal out of his "ſervice."—"Sir, (cried Liſmahago) I muſt inſiſt "upon taking perſonal vengeance for the perſonal "injuries I have ſuſtained."

After ſome debate, the affair was adjuſted in this manner.——His lordſhip, meeting us at our friend's houſe, declared he was ſorry for what had happened; and that he had no intention to give umbrage.—The valet de chambre aſked pardon of the lieutenant upon his knees, when Liſmahago, to the aſtoniſhment of all preſent, gave him a violent kick on the face, which laid him on his back, exclaiming in a furious tone, "*Oui, je te pardonne, gens foutre.*"

Such was the fortunate iſſue of this perilous adventure, which threatened abundance of vexation to our family; for the 'ſquire is one of thoſe who will ſacrifice both life and fortune, rather than leave what they conceive to be the leaſt ſpeck or blemiſh upon their honour or reputation. His lordſhip had no ſooner pronounced his apology, with a very bad grace, than he went away in ſome diſorder, and, I dare ſay, he will never invite another Welchman to his table.

We forthwith quitted the field of this atchievement, in order to proſecute our journey; but we follow no determinate courſe.——We make ſmall deviations, to ſee the remarkable towns, villas, and curioſities on each ſide of our route; ſo that we advance by ſlow ſteps towards the borders of Monmouthſhire: but in the midſt of theſe irregular motions, there is no abberration nor eccentricity in that affection with which I am, dear Wat,

Yours always,

Septr. 28. J. MELFORD.

To Dr. Lewis.

DEAR DICK,

AT what time of life may a man think himself exempted from the neceſſity of ſacrificing his repoſe to the punctilios of a contemptible world? I have been engaged in a ridiculous adventure, which I ſhall recount at meeting; and this, I hope, will not be much longer delayed, as we have now performed almoſt all our viſits, and ſeen every thing that I think has any right to retard us in our journey homewards——A few days ago, underſtanding by accident, that my old friend Baynard was in the country, I would not paſs ſo near his habitation without paying him a viſit, though our correſpondence had been interrupted for a long courſe of years.

I felt myſelf very ſenſibly affected by the ideas of our paſt intimacy, as we approached the place where we had ſpent ſo many happy days together; but when we arrived at the houſe, I could not recognize any one of thoſe objects which had been ſo deeply impreſſed upon my remembrance—The tall oak that ſhaded the avenue had been cut down, and the iron gates at the end of it removed, together with the high wall that ſurrounded the court yard. The houſe itſelf, which was formerly a convent of Ciſtercian monks, had a venerable appearance; and along the front that looked into the garden, was a ſtone gallery, which afforded me many an agreeable walk when I was diſpoſed to be contemplative—Now the old front is covered with a ſcreen of modern architecture; ſo that all without is Grecian, and all within

Gothic—As for the garden, which was well ſtocked with the beſt fruit which England could produce, there is not now the leaſt veſtige remaining of trees, walls, or hedges———Nothing appears but a naked circus of looſe ſand, with a dry baſon and a leaden Triton in the middle.

You muſt know, that Baynard, at his father's death, had a clear eſtate of fifteen hundred pounds a-year, and was in other reſpects extremely well qualified to make a reſpectable figure in the commonwealth; but, what with ſome exceſſes of youth, and the expence of a conteſted election, he in a few years found himſelf encumbered with a debt of ten thouſand pounds, which he reſolved to diſcharge by means of a prudent marriage—He accordingly married a miſs Thomſon, whoſe fortune amounted to double the ſum that he owed—She was the daughter of a citizen, who had failed in trade; but her fortune came by an uncle, who died in the Eaſt-Indies———Her own parents being dead, ſhe lived with a maiden aunt, who had ſuperintended her education; and, in all appearance, was well enough qualified for the uſual purpoſes of the married ſtate—Her virtues, however, ſtood rather upon a negative, than a poſitive foundation———She was neither proud, inſolent, nor capricious, nor given to ſcandal, nor addicted to gaming, nor inclined to gallantry—She could read, and write, and dance, and ſing, and play upon the harpſichord, and ſmatter French, and take a hand at whiſt and ombre; but even theſe accompliſhments ſhe poſſeſſed by halves—She excelled in nothing. Her converſation was flat, her ſtile mean, and her expreſſion embarraſſed—In a word, her character was totally inſipid. Her perſon was not diſagreeable; but there was nothing graceful in her addreſs, nor engaging in her manners; and ſhe was ſo ill qualified

to do the honours of the houſe, that when ſhe ſat at the head of the table, one was always looking for the miſtreſs of the family in ſome other place.

Baynard had flattered himſelf, that it would be no difficult matter to mould ſuch a ſubject after his own faſhion, and that ſhe would chearfully enter into his views, which were wholly turned to domeſtic happineſs. He propoſed to reſide always in the country, of which he was fond to a degree of enthuſiaſm, to cultivate his eſtate, which was very improveable; to enjoy the exerciſe of rural diverſions; to maintain an intimacy of correſpondence with ſome friends that were ſettled in his neighbourhood; to keep a comfortable houſe, without ſuffering his expence to exceed the limits of his income; and to find pleaſure and employment for his wife in the management and avocations of her own family——This, however, was a viſionary ſcheme, which he never was able to realize. His wife was as ignorant as a new-born babe of every thing that related to the conduct of a family; and ſhe had no idea of a country life—— Her underſtanding did not reach ſo far as to comprehend the firſt principles of diſcretion; and, indeed, if her capacity had been better than it was, her natural indolence would not have permitted her to abandon a certain routine, to which ſhe had been habituated. She had not taſte enough to reliſh any rational enjoyment; but her ruling paſſion was vanity; not that ſpecies which ariſes from ſelf-conceit of ſuperior accompliſhments, but that which is of a baſtard or idiot nature, excited by ſhew and oſtentation, which implies not even the leaſt conſciouſneſs of any perſonal merit.

The nuptial peal of noiſe and nonſenſe being rung out in all the uſual changes, Mr. Baynard thought it high time to make her acquainted with the particulars

of the plan which he had projected——He told her that his fortune, though ſufficient to afford all the comforts of life, was not ample enough to command all the ſuperfluities of pomp and pageantry, which, indeed, were equally abſurd and intolerable—He therefore hoped ſhe would have no objection to their leaving London in the ſpring, when he would take the opportunity to diſmiſs ſome unneceſſary domeſtics, whom he had hired for the occaſion of their marriage—She heard him in ſilence, and after ſome pauſe, "So, (ſaid ſhe) I am to be buried in the "country!" He was ſo confounded at this reply, that he could not ſpeak for ſome minutes: at length he told her, he was much mortified to find he had propoſed any thing that was diſagreeable to her ideas—"I am ſure (added he) I meant nothing more than "to lay down a comfortable plan of living within the "bounds of our fortune, which is but moderate." "Sir, (ſaid ſhe) you are the beſt judge of your own "affairs—My fortune, I know, does not exceed "twenty thouſand pounds——Yet, even with that "pittance, I might have had a huſband who would "not have begrudged me a houſe in London——" "Good God! my dear, (cried poor Baynard, in the "utmoſt agitation) you don't think me ſo fordid—I "only hinted what I thought—But, I don't pretend "to impoſe—" "Yes, ſir, (reſumed the lady) it is "your prerogative to command, and my duty to "obey—"

So ſaying, ſhe burſt into tears and retired to her chamber, where ſhe was joined by her aunt—He endeavoured to recollect himſelf, and act with vigour of mind on this occaſion; but was betrayed by the tenderneſs of his nature, which was the greateſt defect of his conſtitution. He found the aunt in tears, and the niece in a fit, which held her the beſt part of

eight hours, at the expiration of which she began to talk incoherently about *death* and her *dear husband*, who had sat by her all this time, and now pressed her hand to his lips, in a transport of grief and penitence for the offence he had given—From thenceforward he carefully avoided mentioning the country; and they continued to be sunk deeper and deeper into the vortex of extravagance and dissipation, leading what is called a fashionable life in town—About the latter end of July, however, Mrs. Baynard, in order to exhibit a proof of conjugal obedience, desired of her own accord, that they might pay a visit to his country house, as there was no company left in London. He would have excused himself from this excursion, which was no part of the œconomical plan he had proposed; but she insisted upon making this sacrifice to his taste and prejudices, and away they went with such an equipage as astonished the whole country—All that remained of the season was engrossed by receiving and returning visits in the neighbourhood; and in this intercourse it was discovered that sir John Chickwell had a house-steward and one footman in livery more than the complement of Mr. Baynard's household. This remark was made by the aunt at table, and assented to by the husband, who observed that sir John Chickwell might very well afford to keep more servants than were found in the family of a man who had not half his fortune. Mrs. Baynard ate no supper that evening; but was seized with a violent fit, which completed her triumph over the spirit of her consort. The two supernumerary servants were added—The family plate was sold for old silver, and a new service procured; fashionable furniture was provided, and the whole house turned topsy turvy.

At their return to London, in the beginning of winter, he, with a heavy heart, communicated these particulars to me in confidence. Before his marriage, he had introduced me to the lady as his particular friend; and I now offered in that character, to lay before her the neceſſity of reforming her œconomy, if ſhe had any regard to the intereſt of her own family, or complaiſance for the inclinations of her huſband—But Baynard declined my offer, on the ſuppoſition that his wife's nerves were too delicate to bear expoſtulation; and that it would only ſerve to overwhelm her with ſuch diſtreſs as would make himſelf miſerable.

Baynard is a man of ſpirit, and had ſhe proved a termagant, he would have known how to deal with her; but, either by accident or inſtinct, ſhe faſtened upon the weak ſide of his ſoul, and held it ſo faſt, that he has been in ſubjection ever ſince—I afterwards adviſed him to carry her abroad to France or Italy, where he might gratify her vanity for half the expence it coſt him in England; and this advice he followed accordingly—She was agreeably flattered with the idea of ſeeing and knowing foreign parts, and foreign faſhions; of being preſented to ſovereigns, and living familiarly with princes. She forthwith ſeized the hint, which I had thrown out on purpoſe, and even preſſed Mr. Baynard to haſten his departure; ſo that in a few weeks they croſſed the ſea to France, with a moderate train, ſtill including the aunt, who was her boſom counſellor, and abetted her in all her oppoſition to her huſband's will——Since that period, I have had little or no opportunity to renew our former correſpondence—All that I knew of his tranſactions, amounted to no more than that after an abſence of two years, they returned ſo little improved in œconomy, that they launched out

into new oceans of extravagance, which, at length, obliged him to mortgage his eſtate—By this time ſhe had bore him three children, of which the laſt only ſurvives, a puny boy of twelve or thirteen, who will be ruined in his education by the indulgence of his mother.

As for Baynard, neither his own good ſenſe, nor the dread of indigence, nor the conſideration of his children, has been of force ſufficient to ſtimulate him into the reſolution of breaking at once the ſhameful ſpell by which he ſeems enchanted——With a taſte capable of the moſt refined enjoyment, a heart glowing with all the warmth of friendſhip and humanity, and a diſpoſition ſtrongly turned to the more rational pleaſures of a retired and country life, he is hurried about in a perpetual tumult, amidſt a mob of beings pleaſed with rattles, baubles, and gewgaws, ſo void of ſenſe and diſtinction, that even the moſt acute philoſophy would find it a very hard taſk to diſcover for what wiſe purpoſe of Providence they were created. Friendſhip is not to be found; nor can the amuſements for which he ſighs be enjoyed within the rotation of abſurdity, to which he is doomed for life. He has long reſigned all views of improving his fortune by management and attention to the exerciſe of huſbandry, in which he delighted; and as to domeſtic happineſs, not the leaſt glimpſe of hope remains to amuſe his imagination. Thus blaſted in all his proſpects, he could not fail to be overwhelmed with melancholy and chagrin, which have preyed upon his health and ſpirits in ſuch a manner, that he is now threatened with a conſumption.

I have given you a ſketch of the man, whom the other day I went to viſit—At the gate we found a great number of powdered lacquies, but no civility—After we had ſat a conſiderable time in the coach, we

were told that Mr. Baynard had rode out, and that his lady was dreſſing; but we were introduced to a parlour ſo very fine and delicate, that in all appearance it was deſigned to be ſeen only, not inhabited. The chairs and couches were carved, gilt, and covered with rich damaſk, ſo ſmooth and ſleek, that they looked as if they had never been ſat upon. There was no carpet on the floor; but the boards were rubbed and waxed in ſuch a manner, that we could not walk, but were obliged to ſlide along them; and as for the ſtove, it was too bright and poliſhed to be polluted with ſea-coal, or ſtained by the ſmoke of any groſs material fire—When we had remained above half an hour ſacrificing to the inhoſpitable power of this *temple of cold reception*, my friend Baynard arrived, and, underſtanding we were in the houſe, made his appearance ſo meagre, yellow, and dejected, that I really ſhould not have known him, had I met with him in any other place——Running up to me with great eagerneſs, he ſtrained me in his embrace, and his heart was ſo full, that for ſome minutes he could not ſpeak—Having ſaluted us all round, he perceived our uncomfortable ſituation, and conducting us into another apartment, which had fire in the chimney, called for chocolate——Then withdrawing, he returned with a compliment from his wife, and, in the mean time, preſented his ſon Harry, a ſhambling, blear-eyed boy, in the habit of a huſſar, very rude, forward, and impertinent—His father would have ſent him to a boarding-ſchool, but his mamma and aunt would not hear of his lying out of the houſe; ſo that there was a clergyman engaged as his tutor in the family.

As it was but juſt turned of twelve, and the whole houſe was in commotion to prepare a formal entertainment, I foreſaw it would be late before we dined,

and propoſed a walk to Mr. Baynard, that we might converſe together freely. In the courſe of this perambulation, when I expreſſed ſome ſurpriſe that he had returned ſo ſoon from Italy, he gave me to underſtand, that his going abroad had not at all anſwered the purpoſe for which he left England; that although the expence of living was not ſo great in Italy as at home, reſpect being had to the ſame rank of life in both countries, it had been found neceſſary for him to lift himſelf above his uſual ſtile, that he might be on ſome footing with the counts, marquiſſes, and cavilieres, with whom he kept company——He was obliged to hire a great number of ſervants, to take up a great variety of rich cloaths, and to keep a ſumptuous table for the faſhionable ſcorocconi of the country; who, without a conſideration of this kind, would not have paid any attention to an untitled foreigner, let his family or fortune be ever ſo reſpectable—Beſides, Mrs. Baynard was continually ſurrounded by a train of expenſive loungers, under the denominations of language-maſters, muſicians, painters, and ciceroni; and had actually fallen into the diſeaſe of buying pictures and antiques upon her own judgment, which was far from being infallible.—At length ſhe met with an affront, which gave her a diſguſt to Italy, and drove her back to England with ſome precipitation. By means of frequenting the ducheſs of B——'s converſazione, while her grace was at Rome, Mrs. Baynard became acquainted with all the faſhionable people of that city, and was admitted to their aſſemblies without ſcruple—Thus favoured, ſhe conceived too great an idea of her own importance; and when the ducheſs left Rome, reſolved to have a converſazione that ſhould leave the Romans no room to regret her grace's departure. She provided hands for a muſical entertainment, and ſent bighetti of invitation to every

perſon of diſtinction; but not one Roman of the female ſex appeared at her aſſembly—She was that night ſeized with a violent fit, and kept her bed three days, at the expiration of which ſhe declared that the air of Italy would be the ruin of her conſtitution. In order to prevent this cataſtrophe, ſhe was ſpeedily removed to Geneva, from whence they returned to England by the way of Lyons and Paris. By the time they arrived at Calais, ſhe had purchaſed ſuch a quantity of ſilks, ſtuffs, and laces, that it was neceſſary to hire a veſſel to ſmuggle them over, and this veſſel was taken by a cuſtom-houſe cutter; ſo that they loſt the whole cargo, which had coſt them above eight hundred pounds.

It now appeared, that her travels had produced no effect upon her, but that of making her more expenſive and fantaſtic than ever:—She affected to lead the faſhion, not only in point of female dreſs, but in every article of taſte and connoiſſeurſhip. She made a drawing of the new facade to the houſe in the country; ſhe pulled up the trees, and pulled down the walls of the garden, ſo as to let in the eaſterly wind, which Mr. Baynard's anceſtors had been at great pains to exclude. To ſhew her taſte in laying out ground, ſhe ſeized into her own hand a farm of two hundred acres, about a mile from the houſe, which ſhe parcelled out into walks and ſhrubberies, having a great baſon in the middle, into which ſhe poured a whole ſtream that turned two mills, and afforded the beſt trout in the country. The bottom of the baſon, however, was ſo ill ſecured, that it would not hold the water, which ſtrained through the earth, and made a bog of the whole plantation: in a word, the ground which formerly paid him one hundred and fifty pounds a-year, now coſt him two hundred pounds a-year to keep it in tolerable order, over and above

the firſt expence of trees, ſhrubs, flowers, turf, and gravel. There was not an inch of garden-ground left about the houſe, nor a tree that produced fruit of any kind; nor did he raiſe a truſs of hay, or a buſhel of oats for his horſes, nor had he a ſingle cow to afford milk for his tea; far leſs did he ever dream of feeding his own mutton, pigs, and poultry: every article of houſekeeping, even the moſt inconſiderable, was brought from the next market town at the diſtance of five miles, and thither they ſent a courier every morning to fetch hot rolls for breakfaſt. In ſhort, Baynard fairly owned that he ſpent double his income, and that in a few years he ſhould be obliged to ſell his eſtate for the payment of his creditors. He ſaid his wife had ſuch delicate nerves, and ſuch imbecility of ſpirit, that ſhe could neither bear remonſtrance, be it ever ſo gentle, nor practiſe any ſcheme of retrenchment, even if ſhe perceived the neceſſity of ſuch a meaſure. He had therefore ceaſed ſtruggling againſt the ſtream, and endeavoured to reconcile himſelf to ruin, by reflecting that his child at leaſt would inherit his mother's fortune, which was ſecured to him by the contract of marriage.

The detail which he gave me of his affairs, filled me at once with grief and indignation. I inveighed bitterly againſt the indiſcretion of his wife, and reproached him with his unmanly acquieſcence under the abſurd tyranny which ſhe exerted. I exhorted him to collect his reſolution, and make one effectual effort to diſengage himſelf from a thraldom equally ſhameful and pernicious. I offered him all the aſſiſtance in my power. I undertook to regulate his affairs, and even to bring about a reformation in his family if he would only authoriſe me to execute the plan I ſhould form for his advantage. I was ſo affected by the ſubject, that I could not help mingling

tears with my remonſtrance, and Baynard was ſo penetrated with theſe marks of my affection, that he loſt all power of utterance. He preſſed me to his breaſt with great emotion, and wept in ſilence. At length he exclaimed, "Friendſhip is undoubtedly the "moſt precious balm of life! Your words, dear "Bramble, have in a great meaſure recalled me from "an abyſs of deſpondence, in which I have been long "overwhelmed—I will, upon honour, make you ac- "quainted with a diſtinct ſtate of my affairs, and as "far as I am able to go, will follow the courſe you "preſcribe. But there are certain lengths which my "nature——The truth is, there are tender con- "nexions, of which a batchelor has no idea—Shall I "own my weakneſs? I cannot bear the thoughts of "making that woman uneaſy—" "And yet (cried "I) ſhe has ſeen you unhappy for a ſeries of years— "unhappy from her miſconduct, without ever ſhew- "ing the leaſt inclination to alleviate your diſtreſs—" "Nevertheleſs (ſaid he), I am perſuaded ſhe loves me "with the moſt warm affection; but theſe are in- "congruities in the compoſition of the human mind "which I hold to be inexplicable."

I was ſhocked at his infatuation, and changed the ſubject, after we had agreed to maintain a cloſe correſpondence for the future—He then gave me to underſtand, that he had two neighbours, who, like himſelf, were driven by their wives at full ſpeed in the high road to bankruptcy and ruin. All the three huſbands were of diſpoſitions very different from each other, and, according to this variation, their conſorts were admirably ſuited to the purpoſe of keeping them all three in ſubjection. The views of the ladies were exactly the ſame. They vied in grandeur, that is, in oſtentation, with the wife of Sir John Chickwell, who had four times their fortune;

and ſhe again piqued herſelf upon making an equal figure with a neighbouring peereſs, whoſe revenue trebled her own. Here, then, was the fable of the frog and the ox realized in four different inſtances within the ſame county: one large fortune, and three moderate eſtates, in a fair way of being burſt by the inflation of female vanity; and in three of theſe inſtances, three different forms of female tyranny were exerciſed. Mr. Baynard was ſubjugated by practiſing upon the tenderneſs of his nature. Mr. Milkſan, being of a timorous diſpoſition, truckled to the inſolence of a termagant. Mr. Sowerby, who was of a temper neither to be moved by fits, nor driven by menaces, had the fortune to be fitted with a helpmate who aſſailed him with the weapons of irony and ſatire; ſometimes ſneering in the way of compliment; ſometimes throwing out ſarcaſtic compariſons, implying reproaches upon his want of taſte, ſpirit, and generoſity; by which means ſhe ſtimulated his paſſions from one act of extravagance to another, juſt as the circumſtances of her vanity required.

All theſe three ladies have at this time the ſame number of horſes, carriages, and ſervants in and out of livery; the ſame variety of dreſs; the ſame quantity of plate and china; the like ornaments in furniture; and in their entertainments they endeavour to exceed one another in the variety, delicacy, and expence of their diſhes. I believe it will be found, upon enquiry, that nineteen out of twenty who are ruined by extravagance, fall a ſacrifice to the ridiculous pride and vanity of ſilly women, whoſe parts are held in contempt by the very men whom they pillage and enſlave. Thank heaven, Dick, that among all the follies and weakneſſes of human nature, I have not yet fallen into that of matrimony.

After Baynard and I had diſcuſſed all theſe matters at leiſure, we returned towards the houſe, and met Jery with our two women, who had come forth to take the air, as the lady of the manſion had not yet made her appearance. In ſhort, Mrs. Baynard did not produce herſelf till about a quarter of an hour before dinner was upon the table. Then her huſband brought her into the parlour, accompanied by her aunt and ſon, and ſhe received us with a coldneſs of reſerve ſufficient to freeze the very ſoul of hoſpitality. Though ſhe knew I had been the intimate friend of her huſband, and had often ſeen me with him in London, ſhe ſhewed no marks of recognition or regard, when I addreſſed myſelf to her in the moſt friendly terms of ſalutation. She did not even expreſs the common compliment of, *I am glad to ſee you*; or, *I hope you have enjoyed your health ſince we had the pleaſure of ſeeing you*; or ſome ſuch words of courſe: nor did ſhe once open her mouth in the way of welcome to my ſiſter and my niece; but ſat in ſilence like a ſtatue, with an aſpect of inſenſibility. Her aunt, the model upon which ſhe had been formed, was indeed the very eſſence of inſipid formality: but the boy was very pert and impudent, and prated without ceaſing.

At dinner, the lady maintained the ſame ungracious indifference, never ſpeaking but in whiſpers to her aunt; and as to the repaſt, it was made up of a parcel of kickſhaws, contrived by a French cook, without one ſubſtantial article adapted to the ſatisfaction of an Engliſh appetite. The pottage was little better than bread ſoaked in diſh waſhings, luke-warm. The ragouts looked as if they had been once eaten and half digeſted; the fricaſſees were involved in a naſty yellow poultice; and the rotis were ſcorched and ſtinking for the honour of the fumet. The deſert conſiſted of faded fruit and iced froth, a good

emblem of our landlady's character; the table-beer was ſour, the water foul, and the wine vapid; but there was a parade of plate and china, and a powdered lacquey ſtood behind every chair, except thoſe of the maſter and miſtreſs of the houſe, who were ſerved by two valets dreſſed like gentlemen. We dined in a large old Gothic parlour, which was formerly the hall. It was now paved with marble, and notwithſtanding the fire, which had been kindled about an hour, ſtruck me with ſuch a chill ſenſation, that when I entered it the teeth chattered in my jaws. In ſhort, every thing was cold, comfortleſs, and diſguſting, except the looks of my friend Baynard, which declared the warmth of his affection and humanity.

After dinner we withdrew into another apartment, where the boy began to be impertinently troubleſome to my niece Liddy. He wanted a play-fellow, forſooth; and would have romped with her, had ſhe encouraged his advances—He was even ſo impudent as to ſnatch a kiſs, at which ſhe changed countenance, and ſeemed uneaſy; and though his father checked him for the rudeneſs of his behaviour, he became ſo outrageous as to thruſt his hand in her boſom; an inſult to which ſhe did not tamely ſubmit, though one of the mildeſt creatures upon earth. Her eyes ſparkling with reſentment, ſhe ſtarted up, and lent him ſuch a box on the ear, as ſent him ſtaggering to the other ſide of the room.

"Miſs Melford, (cried his father) you have treated "him with the utmoſt propriety—I am only ſorry "that the impertinence of any child of mine ſhould "have occaſioned this exertion of your ſpirit, which "I cannot but applaud and admire." His wife was ſo far from aſſenting to the candour of his apology, that ſhe roſe from table, and, taking her ſon by the hand, "Come, child, (ſaid ſhe) your father cannot

"abide you." So saying, she retired with this hopeful youth, and was followed by her gouvernante: but neither the one nor the other deigned to take the least notice of the company.

Baynard was exceedingly disconcerted; but I perceived his uneasiness was tinctured with resentment, and derived a good omen from this discovery. I ordered the horses to be put to the carriage, and, though he made some efforts to detain us all night, I insisted upon leaving the house immediately; but, before I went away, I took an opportunity of speaking to him again in private. I said every thing I could recollect, to animate his endeavours in shaking off those shameful trammels. I made no scruple to declare, that his wife was unworthy of that tender complaisance which he had shewn for her foibles; that she was dead to all the genuine sentiments of conjugal affection; insensible of her own honour and interest, and seemingly destitute of common sense and reflection. I conjured him to remember what he owed to his father's house, to his own reputation, and to his family, including even this unreasonable woman herself, who was driving on blindly to her own destruction. I advised him to form a plan for retrenching superfluous expence, and try to convince the aunt of the necessity for such a reformation, that she might gradually prepare her niece for its execution; and I exhorted him to turn that disagreeable piece of formality out of the house, if he should find her averse to his proposal.

Here he interrupted me with a sigh, observing, that such a step would undoubtedly be fatal to Mrs. Baynard—"I shall lose all patience (cried I), to hear "you talk so weakly—Mrs. Baynard's fits will never "hurt her constitution. I believe in my conscience "they are all affected: I am sure she has no feeling

"for your diſtreſſes; and when you are ruined, ſhe "will appear to have no feeling for her own." Finally, I took his word and honour, that he would make an effort, ſuch as I had adviſed; that he would form a plan of œconomy, and, if he found it impracticable without my aſſiſtance, he would come to Bath in the winter, where I promiſed to give him the meeting, and contribute all in my power to the retrieval of his affairs—With this mutual engagement we parted; and I ſhall think myſelf ſupremely happy, if, by my means, a worthy man, whom I love and eſteem, can be ſaved from miſery, diſgrace, and deſpair.

I have only one friend more to viſit in this part of the country, but he is of a complexion very different from that of Baynard. You have heard me mention Sir Thomas Bullford, whom I knew in Italy. He is now become a country gentleman; but being diſabled by the gout from enjoying any amuſement abroad, he entertains himſelf within doors, by keeping open houſe for all comers, and playing upon the oddities and humours of his company: but he himſelf is generally the greateſt original at his table. He is very good-humoured, talks much, and laughs without ceaſing. I am told that all the uſe he makes of his underſtanding at preſent, is to excite mirth, by exhibiting his gueſts in ludicrous attitudes. I know not how far we may furniſh him with entertainment of this kind, but I am reſolved to beat up his quarters, partly with a view to laugh with the knight himſelf, and partly to pay my reſpects to his lady, a good-natured ſenſible woman, with whom he lives upon very eaſy terms, although ſhe has not had the good fortune to bring him an heir to his eſtate.

And now, dear Dick, I muſt tell you, for your comfort, that you are the only man upon earth to whom I would preſume to ſend ſuch a long-winded

epiſtle, which I could not find in my heart to curtail, becauſe the ſubject intereſted the warmeſt paſſions of my heart; neither will I make any other apology to a correſpondent who has been ſo long accuſtomed to the impertinence of

Sept. 30. MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR KNIGHT,

I BELIEVE there is ſomething miſchievous in my diſpoſition, for nothing diverts me ſo much as to ſee certain characters tormented with falſe terrors. ——We laſt night lodged at the houſe of ſir Thomas Bullford, an old friend of my uncle, a jolly fellow of moderate intellects, who, in ſpite of the gout, which hath lamed him, is reſolved to be merry to the laſt; and mirth he has a particular knack in extracting from his gueſts, let their humour be never ſo cauſtic or refractory.—Beſides our company, there were in the houſe a fat-headed juſtice of the peace, called Frogmore, and a country practitioner in ſurgery, who ſeemed to be our landlord's chief companion and confidant.—We found the knight ſitting on a couch, with his crutches by his ſide, and his feet ſupported on cuſhions; but he received us with a hearty welcome, and ſeemed greatly rejoiced at our arrival.—After tea we were entertained with a ſonata on the harpſichord by lady Bullford, who ſung and played to admiration; but ſir Thomas ſeemed to be a little aſinine in the article of ears, though he affected to be

in raptures, and begged his wife to favour us with an *arietta* of her own compoſing —This *arietta*, however, ſhe no ſooner began to perform, than he and the juſtice fell aſleep; but the moment ſhe ceaſed playing, the knight waked ſnorting, and exclaimed, "*O cara!* what d'ye think, gentlemen? Will you "talk any more of your Pergoleſi and your Corelli?" —At the ſame time he thruſt his tongue in one cheek, and leered with one eye at the doctor and me, who ſat on his left hand.—He concluded the pantomime with a loud laugh, which he could command at all times extempore.—Notwithſtanding his diſorder, he did not do penance at ſupper, nor did he ever refuſe his glaſs when the toaſt went round, but rather encouraged a quick circulation, both by precept and example.

I ſoon perceived the doctor had made himſelf very neceſſary to the baronet.—He was the whetſtone of his wit, the butt of his ſatire, and his operator in certain experiments of humour, which were occaſionally tried upon ſtrangers.—Juſtice Frogmore was an excellent ſubject for this ſpecies of philoſophy; ſleek and corpulent, ſolemn and ſhallow, he had ſtudied Burn with uncommon application, but he ſtudied nothing ſo much as the art of living (that is eating) well.—This fat buck had often afforded good ſport to our landlord; and he was frequently ſtarted with tolerable ſucceſs in the courſe of this evening; but the baronet's appetite for ridicule ſeemed to be chiefly excited by the appearance, addreſs, and converſation of Liſmahago, whom he attempted in all the different modes of expreſſion; but he put me in mind of a conteſt that I once ſaw between a young hound and an old hedge-hog—The dog turned him over and over, and bounced, and barked, and mumbled; but as often as he attempted to bite, he felt a prickle in his

jaws, and recoiled in manifeſt confuſion:——The captain, when left to himſelf, will not fail to turn his ludicrous ſide to the company; but if any man attempts to force him into that attitude, he becomes ſtubborn as a mule, and unmanageable as an elephant unbroke.

Divers tolerable jokes were cracked upon the juſtice, who ate a moſt unconſcionable ſupper, and, among other things, a large plate of broiled muſhrooms, which he had no ſooner ſwallowed than the doctor obſerved, with great gravity, that they were of the kind called *champignons*, which on ſome conſtitutions had a poiſonous effect—Mr. Frogmore, ſtartled at this remark, aſked, in ſome confuſion, why he had not been ſo kind as to give him that notice ſooner.—He anſwered, that he took it for granted, by his eating them ſo heartily, that he was uſed to the diſh; but as he ſeemed to be under ſome apprehenſion, he preſcribed a bumper of plague water, which the juſtice drank off immediately, and retired to reſt, not without marks of terror and diſquiet.

At midnight we were ſhewn to our different chambers, and in half an hour I was faſt aſleep in bed; but about three o'clock in the morning I was waked with a diſmal cry of *Fire!* and ſtarting up, ran to the window in my ſhirt.—The night was dark and ſtormy; and a number of people, half-dreſſed, ran backwards and forwards through the court-yard, with links and lanthorns, ſeemingly in the utmoſt hurry and trepidation—Slipping on my cloaths in a twinkling, I ran down ſtairs, and, upon enquiry, found the fire was confined to a back-ſtair, which led to a detached apartment where Liſmahago lay.—By this time the lieutenant was alarmed by bawling at his window, which was in the ſecond ſtory, but

he could not find his cloaths in the dark, and his room-door was locked on the outside.—The ſervants called to him that the houſe had been robbed; that, without all doubt, the villains had taken away his cloaths, faſtened the door, and ſet the houſe on fire, for the ſtair-caſe was in flames.—In this dilemma the poor lieutenant ran about the room naked like a ſquirrel in a cage, popping out his head at the window between whiles, and imploring aſſiſtance.—— At length, the knight in perſon was brought out in his chair, attended by my uncle and all the family, including our aunt Tabitha, who ſcreamed, and cried, and tore her hair, as if ſhe had been diſtracted.—Sir Thomas had already ordered his people to bring a long ladder, which was applied to the captain's window, and now he exhorted him earneſtly to deſcend.—There was no need of much rhetoric to perſuade Liſmahago, who forthwith made his exit by the window, roaring all the time to the people below to hold faſt the ladder.

Notwithſtanding the gravity of the occaſion, it was impoſſible to behold this ſcene without being ſeized with an inclination to laugh. The rueful aſpect of the lieutenant in his ſhirt, with a quilted night-cap faſtened under his chin, and his long lank limbs and poſteriors expoſed to the wind, made a very picturesque appearance, when illumined by the links and torches which the ſervants held up to light him in his deſcent.—All the company ſtood round the ladder, except the knight, who ſat in his chair, exclaiming from time to time, "Lord "have mercy upon us!—ſave the gentleman's life! "—mind your footing, dear captain!—ſoftly!— "ſtand faſt!—claſp the ladder with both hands!— "there!—well done, my dear boy!—O bravo!— "an old ſoldier for ever!—bring a blanket—bring a

"warm blanket to comfort his poor carcaſe—warm "the bed in the green-room—give me your hand, "dear captain—I'm rejoic'd to ſee thee ſafe and ſound "with all my heart." Liſmahago was received at the foot of the ladder by his inamorata, who ſnatching a blanket from one of the maids, wrapped it about his body; two men-ſervants took him under the arms, and a female conducted him to the green-room, ſtill accompanied by Mrs. Tabitha, who ſaw him fairly put to bed. — During this whole tranſaction he ſpoke not a ſyllable, but looked exceeding grim, ſometimes at one, ſometimes at another of the ſpectators, who now adjourned in a body to the parlour where we had ſupped, every one ſurveying another with marks of aſtoniſhment and curioſity.

The knight being ſeated in an eaſy chair, ſeized my uncle by the hand, and burſting into a long and a loud laugh, "Matt, (cried he) crown me with oak, "or ivy, or laurel, or parſley, or what you will, "and acknowledge this to be a *coup de maitre* in the "way of waggery—— ha, ha, ha!—Such a *camiſcata, ſcagliata, baſſata!—O, che roba!* ——O, "what a ſubject!——O, what *caricature!* ——O, "for a Roſa, a Rembrandt, a Schalken! — Zooks, "I'll give a hundred guineas to have it painted!— "What a fine deſcent from the croſs, or aſcent to "the gallows!—what lights and ſhadows!—what "a groupe below!—what expreſſion above!—what "an aſpect!—did you mind the aſpect?—ha, ha, "ha!—and the limbs, and the muſcles—every "toe denoted terror!—ha, ha, ha!——then the "blanket!—O, what *coſtume!* St. Andrew! St. "Lazarus! St. Barrabas!—ha, ha, ha!" "After all then, (cried Mr. Bramble very gravely) this was no more than a falſe alarm.—We have been frightened out of our beds, and almoſt out of

" our ſenſes, for the joke's ſake." " Ay, and ſuch a " joke! (cried our landlord) ſuch a farce! ſuch a " *denouement!* ſuch a *cataſtrophe!*"

" Have a little patience (replied our 'ſquire); we " are not yet come to the *cataſtrophe*; and pray God " it may not turn out a tragedy inſtead of a farce — " The captain is one of thoſe ſaturnine ſubjects who " have no idea of humour.—He never laughs in his " own perſon; nor can he bear that other people " ſhould laugh at his expence——Beſides, if the ſub- " ject had been properly choſen, the joke was too " ſevere, in all conſcience." " 'Sdeath! (cried the " knight) I could not have bated him an ace, had he " been my own father; and as for the ſubject, ſuch " another does not preſent itſelf once in half a cen- " tury."—Here Mrs. Tabitha interpoſing, and bridling up, declared, ſhe did not ſee that Mr. Liſmahago was a fitter ſubject for ridicule than the knight himſelf; and that ſhe was very much afraid, he would very ſoon find he had miſtaken his man.—The baronet was a good deal diſconcerted by this intimation, ſaying, that he muſt be a Goth and a barbarian, if he did not enter into the ſpirit of ſuch a happy and humourous contrivance. — He begged, however, that Mr. Bramble and his ſiſter would bring him to reaſon; and this requeſt was reinforced by lady Bullford, who did not fail to read the baronet a lecture upon his indiſcretion, which lecture he received with ſubmiſſion on one ſide of his face, and a leer upon the other.

We now went to bed for the ſecond time; and before I got up, my uncle had viſited Liſmahago in the green-room, and uſed ſuch arguments with him, that when we met in the parlour he ſeemed to be quite appeaſed. — He received the knight's apology with a good grace, and even profeſſed himſelf pleaſed

at finding he had contributed to the diverſion of the company. —— Sir Thomas ſhook him by the hand, laughing heartily; and then deſired a pinch of ſnuff, in token of perfect reconciliation — The lieutenant, putting his hand in his waiſtcoat pocket, pulled out, inſtead of his own Scotch mull, a very fine gold ſnuff-box, which he no ſooner perceived than he ſaid, "Here is a ſmall miſtake." "No miſtake at all "(cried the baronet): a fair exchange is no robbery. "— Oblige me ſo far, captain, as to let me keep "your mull as a memorial." "Sir (ſaid the lieu-"tenant) the mull is much at your ſervice; but this "machine I can by no means retain. — It looks like "compounding a ſort of felony in the code of ho-"nour. — Beſides, I don't know but there may be "another joke in this conveyance; and I don't find "myſelf diſpoſed to be brought upon the ſtage again. "— I won't preſume to make free with your poc-"kets, but I beg you will put it up again with your "own hand."—So ſaying, with a certain auſterity of aſpect, he preſented the ſnuff-box to the knight, who received it in ſome confuſion, and reſtored the mull, which he would by no means keep, except on the terms of exchange.

This tranſaction was like to give a grave caſt to the converſation, when my uncle took notice that Mr. Juſtice Frogmore had not made his appearance either at the night-alarm, or now at the general rendezvous. The baronet hearing Frogmore mentioned, "Odſo! (cried he) I had forgot the juſtice. —Pr'y-"thee, doctor, go and bring him out of his kennel." —Then, laughing till his ſides were well ſhaken, he ſaid he would ſhew the captain, that he was not the only perſon of the drama exhibited for the entertainment of the company. As to the night-ſcene, it could not affect the juſtice, who had been purpoſely

lodged in the farther end of the houſe, remote from the noiſe, and lulled with a doſe of opium into the bargain. In a few minutes, Mr. Juſtice was led into the parlour in his night-cap and looſe morning-gown, rolling his head from ſide to ſide, and groaning piteouſly all the way.—"Jeſu! neighbour Frogmore, "(exclaimed the baronet) what is the matter?—"you look as if you was not a man for this world. "——Set him down ſoftly on the couch——poor "gentleman!—Lord have mercy upon us!—— "What makes him ſo pale, and yellow, and bloated?" "Oh, ſir Thomas! (cried the juſtice) I doubt it is "all over with me——Thoſe muſhrooms I eat at "your table have done my buſineſs——ah! oh! "hey!" "Now the Lord forbid! (ſaid the other)—"what! man, have a good heart.—How does the "ſtomach feel?—hah?"

To this interrogation he made no reply, but throwing aſide his night-gown, diſcovered that his waiſtcoat would not meet upon his belly by five good inches at leaſt. "Heaven protect us all! (cried "Thomas)—what a melancholy ſpectacle!—never "did I ſee a man ſo ſuddenly ſwelled, but when "was either juſt dead, or juſt dying.—Doctor, "canſt thou do nothing for this poor object?" "I "don't think the caſe is quite deſperate (ſaid the ſurgeon), but I would adviſe Mr. Frogmore to ſettle "his affairs with all expedition; the parſon muſt "come and pray by him, while I prepare a glyſter "and an emetic draught." The juſtice, rolling his languid eyes, ejaculated with great fervency, "Lord "have mercy upon us! Chriſt, have mercy upon "us!"——Then he begged the ſurgeon, in the name of God, to diſpatch——"As for my worldly "affairs, (ſaid he) they are all ſettled but one mortgage, which muſt be left to my heirs—but

" poor ſoul! my poor ſoul! what will become of " my poor ſoul? — miſerable ſinner that I am!" " Nay, pr'ythee, my dear boy, compoſe thyſelf (re- " ſumed the knight); conſider the mercy of heaven " is infinite; thou canſt not have any ſins of a very " deep dye on thy conſcience, or the devil is in it." " Name not the devil (exclaimed the terrified Frog- " more), I have more ſins to anſwer for than the " world dreams of.—Ah! friend, I have been ſly— " ſly— damn'd ſly! — Send for the parſon without " loſs of time, and put me to bed, for I am poſting " to eternity."—He was accordingly raiſed from the couch, and ſupported by two ſervants, who led him back to his room; but before he quitted the parlour, he intreated the good company to aſſiſt him with their prayers. — He added, " Take warning " by me, who am ſuddenly cut off in my prime, " like a flower of the field; and God forgive you, " ſir Thomas, for ſuffering ſuch poiſonous traſh to be " eaten at your table."

He was no ſooner removed out of hearing, than the baronet abandoned himſelf to a violent fit of laughing, in which he was joined by the greateſt part of the company; but we could hardly prevent the good lady from going to undeceive the patient, by diſcovering, that while he ſlept his waiſtcoat had been ſtraitened by the contrivance of the ſurgeon; and that the diſorder in his ſtomach and bowels was occaſioned by ſome antimonial wine, which he had taken over night, under the denomination of plague-water. — She ſeemed to think that his apprehenſion might put an end to his life: the knight ſwore he was no ſuch chicken, but a tough old rogue, that would live long enough to plague all his neighbours. —Upon enquiry, we found his character did not entitle him to much compaſſion or reſpect, and there-

fore we let our landlord's humour take its courſe.—A glyſter was actually adminiſtered by an old woman of the family, who had been ſir Thomas's nurſe, and the patient took a draught made with oxymel of ſquills to forward the operation of the antimonial wine, which had been retarded by the opiate of the preceding night. He was viſited by the vicar, who read prayers, and began to take an account of the ſtate of his ſoul, when thoſe medicines produced their effect; ſo that the parſon was obliged to hold his noſe while he poured forth ſpiritual conſolation from his mouth. The ſame expedient was uſed by the knight and me, who, with the doctor, entered the chamber at this juncture, and found Frogmore enthroned on an eaſing-chair, under the preſſure of a double evacuation. The ſhort intervals betwixt every heave he employed in crying for mercy, confeſſing his ſins, or aſking the vicar's opinion of his caſe; and the vicar anſwered in a ſolemn ſnuffling tone, that heightened the ridicule of the ſcene. The emetic having done its office, the doctor interfered, and ordered the patient to be put in bed again. When he examined the *egeſta*, and felt his pulſe, he declared that much of the *virus* was diſcharged, and, giving him a compoſing draught, aſſured him he had good hopes of his recovery.—This welcome hint he received with tears of joy in his eyes, proteſting, that if he ſhould recover, he would always think himſelf indebted for his life to the great ſkill and tenderneſs of his doctor, whoſe hand he ſqueezed with great fervor; and thus he was left to his repoſe.

We were preſſed to ſtay dinner, that we might be witneſſes of his reſuſcitation; but my uncle inſiſted upon our departing before noon, that we might reach this town before it ſhould be dark.—In the mean time, lady Bullford conducted us into the garden to

ſee a fiſh-pond juſt finiſhed, which Mr. Bramble cenſured as being too near the parlour, where the knight now ſat by himſelf, dozing in an elbow-chair after the fatigues of his morning atchievement.——In this ſituation he reclined, with his feet wrapped in flannel, and ſupported in a line with his body, when the door flying open with a violent ſhock, lieutenant Liſmahago ruſhed into the room with horror in his looks, exclaiming, "A mad dog! a mad dog!" and throwing up the window ſaſh, leaped into the garden.—Sir Thomas, waked by this tremendous explanation, ſtarted up, and forgetting his gout, followed the lieutenant's example by a kind of inſtinctive impulſe.—He not only bolted thro' the window like an arrow from a bow, but ran up to his middle in the pond, before he gave the leaſt ſign of recollection. Then the captain began to bawl, "Lord, "have mercy upon us!—pray, take care of the "gentleman! for God's ſake, mind your footing, my "dear boy! get warm blankets—comfort his poor "carcaſe—warm the bed in the green room."

Lady Bullford was thunder-ſtruck at this phænomenon, and the reſt of the company gazed in ſilent aſtoniſhment, while the ſervants haſtened to aſſiſt their maſter, who ſuffered himſelf to be carried back into the parlour without ſpeaking a word.—Being inſtantly accommodated with dry clothes and flannels, comforted with a cordial, and replaced *in ſtatu quo*, one of the maids was ordered to chafe his lower extremities, an operation in conſequence of which his ſenſes ſeemed to return and his good-humour to revive.—As we had followed him into the room, he looked at every individual in his turn, with a certain ludicrous expreſſion in his countenance, but fixed his eye in particular upon Liſmahago, who preſented him with a pinch of ſnuff, and when he took it in ſilence,

"Sir Thomas Bullford, (ſaid he) I am much obliged "to you for all your favours, and ſome of them I "have endeavoured to repay in your own coin." "Give me thy hand (cried the baronet); thou haſt "indeed, paid me *Scot and lot*; and even left a ba-"lance in my hands, for which, in preſence of this "company, I promiſe to be accountable."—So ſay-ing, he laughed very heartily, and even ſeemed to enjoy the retaliation which had been exacted at his own expence; but lady Bullford looked very grave, and in all probability thought the lieutenant had car-ried his reſentment too far, conſidering that her huſband was valetudinary—but, according to the proverb, *he that will play at bowls muſt expect to meet with rubbers.*

I have ſeen a tame bear, very diverting when pro-perly managed, become a very dangerous wild beaſt when teized for the entertainment of the ſpectators.—As for Liſmahago, he ſeemed to think the fright and the cold bath would have a good effect upon his pa-tient's conſtitution; but the doctor hinted ſome appre-henſion that the gouty matter might, by ſuch a ſudden ſhock, be repelled from the extremities and thrown upon ſome of the more vital parts of the machine.—I ſhould be very ſorry to ſee this prognoſtic verified upon our facetious landlord, who told Mrs. Tabitha at parting, that he hoped ſhe would remember him in the diſtribution of the bride's favours, as he had taken ſo much pains to put the captain's parts and mettle to the proof.———After all, I am afraid our 'ſquire will appear to be the greateſt ſufferer by the baronet's wit; for his conſtitution is by no means calculated for night-alarms—He has yawned and ſhi-vered all day, and gone to bed without ſupper; ſo that, as we have got into good quarters, I imagine we ſhall make a halt to-morrow; in which caſe, you

will have at leaſt one day's reſpite from the perſecution of

Oct. 3. J. MELFORD.

To Mrs. MARY JONES, at Brambleton-hall.

DEAR MARY JONES,

MISS LIDDY is ſo good as to uncloſe me in a kiver as far as Gloſter, and the carrier will bring it to hand—God ſend us all ſafe to Monmouthſhire, for I'm quite jaded with rambling—'Tis a true ſaying, *live and learn*—O woman, what chuckling and changing have I ſeen!—Well, there's nothing ſartain in this world———Who would have thought that miſtriſs, after all the pains taken for the good of her pruſias ſole, would go for to throw away her poor body? that ſhe would caſt the heys of infection upon ſuch a carrying-crow as Laſhmihago! as old as Mathewſullin, as dry as a red herring, and as pore as a ſtarved veezel—O, Molly! hadſt thou ſeen him come down the ladder in a ſhurt ſo ſcanty, that it could not kiver his nakedneſs!—The young 'ſquire called him Dunquickſet, but he looked for all the world like Cradoc ap-Morgan, the ould tinker, that ſuffered at Abergany for ſteeling of kettle—Then he's a profane ſcuffle, and, as Mr. Clinker ſays, no better than an impſiddle, continually playing upon the pyebill and the new-burth—I doubt he has as little manners as money; for he can't ſay a civil word, much more make me a preſent of a pair of gloves for good-will; but he looks as if he wanted to be very forewood and familiar—O! that ever a gentlewoman of years and diſcretion ſhould tare her

air, and cry and diſporridge herſelf for ſuch a nubjack! as the ſong goes—

"I vow ſhe would fain have a burd,
"That bids ſuch a price for an owl."

But, for ſartain, he muſt have dealt with ſome Scotch muſician to bring her to this paſs——As for me, I put my truſt in the Lord; and I have got a ſlice of witch elm ſowed in the gathers of my under petticoat; and Mr. Clinker aſſures me, that by the new light of greaſe, I may deify the devil and all his works—But I noſe what I noſe—If miſtriſs ſhould take up with Laſhmyhago, this is no ſarvice for me—Thank God, there's no want of places; and if it wa'n't for wan thing, I would——but, no matter—Madam Baynar's woman has twenty good pounds a-year and parquiſites; and dreſſes like a parſon of diſtinkſon——I dined with her and the valley de ſhambles, with bags and golden jackets; but there was nothing kimfittable to eat, being as how they live upon board, and having nothing but a piſs of could cuddling tart and ſome blamangey, I was tuck with the cullick, and a murcy it was that miſtriſs had her viol of aſſings in the cox.

But, as I was ſaying, I think for ſartain this match will go forewood; for things are come to a creeſus; and I have ſeen with my own hays ſuch ſmuggling—But I ſcorn for to excloſe the ſecrets of the family; and if it wance comes to marrying, who noſe but the frolic may go round—I believes as how, Miſs Liddy would have no reverſion if her ſwan would appear; and you would be ſurpriſed, Molly, to receive a bride's ſever from your humble ſarvant—but this is all ſuppoſitory, dear girl; and I have ſullenly promiſed to Mr. Clinker, that neither man, woman, nor child, ſhall no that arrow ſaid a civil thing to me

in the way of infection—I hopes to drink your health at Brambleton-hall, in a horn of October, before the month be out—Pray let my bed be turned once a-day, and the windore opened, while the weather is dry: and burn a few billets with ſome bruſh in the footman's garret, and ſee their mattraſh be dry as a bone; for both our gentlemen have got a ſad could by lying in damp ſhits at ſir Tummas Ballfart's. No more at preſent, but my ſarvice to Saul and the reſt of our fellow-ſarvents, being,

Dear Mary Jones,
always yours,
WIN. JENKINS.

To Miſs LÆTITIA WILLIS, at Glouceſter.

MY DEAR LETTY,

THIS method of writing to you from time to time, without any hopes of an anſwer, affords me, I own, ſome eaſe and ſatisfaction in the midſt of my diſquiet, as it in ſome degree lightens the burthen of affliction; but it is at beſt a very imperfect enjoyment of friendſhip, becauſe it admits of no return of confidence and good counſel—I would give the whole world to have your company for a ſingle day—I am heartily tired of this itinerant way of life—I am quite dizzy with a perpetual ſucceſſion of objects—Beſides, it is impoſſible to travel ſuch a length of way, without being expoſed to inconveniencies, dangers, and diſagreeable accidents, which prove very grievous to a poor creature of weak nerves like me, and make me pay very dear for the gratification of my curioſity.

Nature never intended me for the buſy world—I long for repoſe and ſolitude, where I can enjoy that diſintereſted friendſhip which is not to be found among crouds, and indulge thoſe pleaſing reveries that ſhun the hurry and tumult of faſhionable ſociety—Unexperienced as I am in the commerce of life, I have ſeen enough to give me a diſguſt to the generality of thoſe who carry it on—There is ſuch malice, treachery, and diſſimulation, even among profeſſed friends and intimate companions, as cannot fail to ſtrike a virtuous mind with horror; and when Vice quits the ſtage for a moment, her place is immediately occupied by Folly, which is often too ſerious to excite any thing but compaſſion—Perhaps I ought to be ſilent on the foibles of my poor aunt; but with you, my dear Willis, I have no ſecrets; and, truly, her weakneſſes are ſuch as cannot be concealed. Since the firſt moment we arrived at Bath, ſhe has been employed conſtantly in ſpreading nets for the other ſex; and, at length, ſhe has caught a ſuperannuated lieutenant, who is in a fair way to make her change her name—My uncle and my brother ſeem to have no objection to this extraordinary match, which, I make no doubt, will afford abundance of matter of converſation and mirth; for my part, I am too ſenſible of my own weakneſſes, to be diverted with thoſe of other people——At preſent, I have ſomething at heart that employs my whole attention, and keeps my mind in the utmoſt terror and ſuſpence.

Yeſterday in the forenoon, as I ſtood with my brother at the parlour window of an inn, where we had lodged, a perſon paſſed a-horſe-back, whom (gracious Heaven!) I inſtantly diſcovered to be Wilſon! He wore a white riding-coat, with the cape buttoned up to his chin; looked remarkably pale, and paſſed at a

round trot, without ſeeming to obſerve us—Indeed, he could not ſee us; for there was a blind that concealed us from the view. You may gueſs how I was affected at this apparition—The light forſook my eyes; and I was ſeized with ſuch a palpitation and trembling, that I could not ſtand. I ſat down upon a couch, and ſtrove to compoſe myſelf, that my brother might not perceive my agitation; but it was impoſſible to eſcape his prying eyes—He had obſerved the object that alarmed me; and doubtleſs knew him at the firſt glance——He now looked at me with a ſtern countenance; then he ran out into the ſtreet, to ſee what road the unfortunate horſeman had taken—He afterwards diſpatched his man for further intelligence, and ſeemed to meditate ſome violent deſign. My uncle being out of order, we remained another night at the inn; and all day long Jery acted the part of an indefatigable ſpy upon my conduct—He watched my very looks with ſuch eagerneſs of attention, as if he would have penetrated into the inmoſt receſſes of my heart—This may be owing to his regard for my honour, if it is not the effect of his own pride; but he is ſo hot, and violent, and unrelenting, that the ſight of him alone throws me into a flutter; and really it will not be in my power to afford him any ſhare of my affection, if he perſiſts in perſecuting me at this rate. I am afraid he has formed ſome ſcheme of vengeance, which will make me completely wretched! I am afraid he ſuſpects ſome colluſion from this appearance of Wilſon.—— Good God! did he really appear? or was it only a phantom, a pale ſpectre to appriſe me of his death?

O Letty, what ſhall I do?—where ſhall I turn for advice and conſolation?—Shall I implore the protection of my uncle, who has been always kind and compaſſionate?—This muſt be my laſt reſource.—I

dread the thoughts of making him uneasy; and would rather suffer a thousand deaths than live the cause of dissension in the family.—I cannot perceive the meaning of Wilson's coming hither:—perhaps, he was in quest of us, in order to disclose his real name and situation:—but wherefore pass without staying to make the least enquiry?—My dear Willis, I am lost in conjecture—I have not closed an eye since I saw him.—All night long have I been tossed about from one imagination to another.—The reflection finds no resting-place.—I have prayed, and sighed, and wept plentifully.—If this terrible suspence continues much longer, I shall have another fit of illness, and then the whole family will be in confusion.—If it was consistent with the wise purposes of Providence, would I were in my grave.—But it is my duty to be resigned.—My dearest Letty, excuse my weakness--excuse these blots- my tears fall so fast that I cannot keep the paper dry—yet I ought to consider that I have as yet no cause to despair—but I am such a faint-hearted timorous creature!

Thank God, my uncle is much better than he was yesterday.—He is resolved to pursue our journey strait to Wales.—I hope we shall take Gloucester in our way—that hope chears my poor heart—I shall once more embrace my best beloved Willis, and pour all my griefs into her friendly bosom.——O heaven! is it possible that such happiness is reserved for

The dejected and forlorn

Oct 4. LYDIA MELFORD.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. of Jesus College, Oxon.

DEAR WATKIN,

I YESTERDAY met with an incident which I believe you will own to be very surprising—As I stood with Liddy at the window of the inn where we had lodged, who should pass by but Wilson a-horseback!—I could not be mistaken in the person, for I had a full view of him as he advanced; I plainly perceived by my sister's confusion that she recognized him at the same time. I was equally astonished and incensed at his appearance, which I could not but interpret into an insult, or something worse. I ran out at the gate, and seeing him turn the corner of the street, I dispatched my servant to observe his motions; but the fellow was too late to bring me that satisfaction. He told me, however, that there was an inn, called the Red Lion, at that end of the town, where he supposed the horseman alighted, but that he would not enquire without further orders. I sent him back immediately to know what strangers were in the house, and he returned with a report that there was one Mr. Wilson lately arrived. In consequence of this information I charged him with a note directed to that gentleman, desiring him to meet me in half an hour in a certain field at the town's end, with a case of pistols, in order to decide the difference which could not be determined at our last rencounter: but I did not think proper to subscribe the billet. My man assured me he had delivered it into his own hand; and that, having read it, he declared he would

wait upon the gentleman at the place and time appointed.

M'Alpine being an old ſoldier, and luckily ſober at that time, I entruſted him with my ſecret. I ordered him to be within call, and, having given him a letter to be delivered to my uncle in caſe of accident, I repaired to the rendezvous, which was an incloſed field at a little diſtance from the highway. I found my antagoniſt had already taken his ground, wrapped in a dark horſeman's coat, with a laced hat flapped over his eyes; but what was my aſtoniſhment, when, throwing off this wrapper, he appeared to be a perſon whom I had never ſeen before? He had one piſtol ſtuck in a leather belt, and another in his hand ready for action, and, advancing a few ſteps, called to know if I was ready—I anſwered, "No," and deſired a parley; upon which he turned the muzzle of his piece towards the earth; then replaced it in his belt, and met me half way—When I aſſured him he was not the man I expected to meet, he ſaid, *it might be ſo*; that he had received a ſlip of paper directed to Mr. Wilſon, requeſting him to come hither; and that as there was no other in the place of that name, he naturally concluded the note was intended for him, and him only—I then gave him to underſtand, that I had been injured by a perſon who aſſumed that name, which perſon I had actually ſeen within the hour, paſſing through the ſtreet on horſeback; that hearing there was a Mr. Wilſon at the Red Lion, I took it for granted he was the man, and in that belief had writ the billet; and I expreſſed my ſurprize that he, who was a ſtranger to me and my concerns, ſhould give me ſuch a rendezvous, without taking the trouble to demand a previous explanation—— He replied, that there was no other of his name in the whole county; that no ſuch horſeman had alight-

ed at the Red Lion ſince nine o'clock, when he arrived—that having had the honour to ſerve his majeſty, he thought he could not decently decline any invitation of this kind, from what quarter ſoever it might come; and that if any explanation was neceſſary, it did not belong to him to demand it, but to the gentleman who ſummoned him into the field—Vexed as I was at this adventure, I could not help admiring the coolneſs of this officer, whoſe open countenance prepoſſeſſed me in his favour.——He ſeemed to be turned of forty; wore his own ſhort black hair, which curled naturally about his ears, and was very plain in his apparel——When I begged pardon for the trouble I had given him, he received my apology with great good-humour.—He told me that he lived about ten miles off, at a ſmall farm-houſe, which would afford me tolerable lodging, if I would come and take the diverſion of hunting with him for a few weeks; in which caſe we might, perhaps, find out the man who had given me offence—I thanked him very ſincerely for his courteous offer, which, I told him, I was not at liberty to accept at preſent, on account of my being engaged in a family party; and ſo we parted, with mutual profeſſions of good will and eſteem.

Now tell me, dear knight, what am I to make of this ſingular adventure?—Am I to ſuppoſe that the horſeman I ſaw was really a thing of fleſh and blood, or a bubble that vaniſhed into air?—or muſt I imagine Liddy knows more of the matter than ſhe chuſes to diſcloſe?—If I thought her capable of carrying on any clandeſtine correſpondence with ſuch a fellow, I ſhould at once diſcard all tenderneſs, and forget that ſhe was connected with me by the ties of blood—But how is it poſſible that a girl of her ſimplicity and inexperience ſhould maintain ſuch an intercourſe,

ſurrounded as ſhe is with ſo many eyes, deſtitute of all opportunity, and ſhifting quarters every day of her life?—Beſides, ſhe has ſolemnly promiſed—No—I can't think the girl ſo baſe—ſo inſenſible to the honour of her family.—What diſturbs me chiefly, is the impreſſion which theſe occurrences ſeem to make upon her ſpirits—Theſe are the ſymptoms from which I conclude that the raſcal has ſtill a hold on her affection—ſurely I have a right to call him a raſcal, and to conclude that his deſigns are infamous——But it ſhall be my fault if he does not one day repent his preſumption—I confeſs I cannot think, much leſs write on this ſubject with any degree of temper or patience; I ſhall therefore conclude with telling you, that we hope to be in Wales by the latter end of the month: but before that period you will probably hear again from

Your affectionate

Oct. 4. J. MELFORD.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

WHEN I wrote you by laſt poſt, I did not imagine I ſhould be tempted to trouble you again ſo ſoon: but now I ſit down with a heart ſo full that it cannot contain itſelf; tho' I am under ſuch agitation of ſpirits, that you are to expect neither method or connexion in this addreſs——We have been this day within a hair's-breadth of loſing honeſt Matthew Bramble, in conſequence of a curſed accident, which I will endeavour to explain—In croſſing the country to get into the poſt-road, it was neceſſary to ford a river,

and we that were on horſeback paſſed without any danger or difficulty; but a great quantity of rain having fallen laſt night and this morning, there was ſuch an accumulation of water, that a mill-head gave way, juſt as the coach was paſſing under it, and the flood ruſhed down with ſuch impetuoſity, as firſt floated, and then fairly overturned the carriage in the middle of the ſtream—Liſmahago and I, and the two ſervants, alighting inſtantaneouſly, ran into the river to give all the aſſiſtance in our power.—Our aunt, Mrs. Tabitha, who had the good fortune to be uppermoſt, was already half way out of the coach window, when her lover approaching, diſengaged her entirely; but whether his foot ſlipt, or the burden was too great, they fell over head and ears in each other's arms. He endeavoured more than once to get up, and even to diſentangle himſelf from her embrace, but ſhe hung about his neck like a mill-ſtone (no bad emblem of matrimony); and if my man had not proved a ſtaunch auxiliary, thoſe two lovers would in all probability have gone hand in hand to the ſhades below—For my part, I was too much engaged to take any cognizance of their diſtreſs——I ſnatched out my ſiſter by the hair of the head, and, dragging her to the bank, recollected that my uncle had not yet appeared——Ruſhing again into the ſtream, I met Clinker hauling aſhore Mrs. Jenkins, who looked like a mermaid with her hair diſhevelled about her ears; but when I aſked if his maſter was ſafe, he forthwith ſhook her from him, and ſhe muſt have gone to pot, if a miller had not ſeaſonably come to her relief.—As for Humphry, he flew like lightning to the coach, that was by this time filled with water, and, diving into it, brought up the poor 'ſquire, to all appearance, deprived of life—It is not in my power to deſcribe what I felt at this melancholy ſpectacle—

it was such an agony as baffles all description! The faithful Clinker taking him up in his arms, as if he had been an infant of six months, carried him ashore, howling most piteously all the way, and I followed him in a transport of grief and consternation—When he was laid upon the grass, and turned from side to side, a great quantity of water ran out at his mouth; then he opened his eyes, and fetched a deep sigh: Clinker perceiving these signs of life, immediately tied up his arm with a garter, and pulling out a horse-fleam, let him blood in the farrier stile.—— At first a few drops only issued from the orifice; but the limb being chafed, in a little time the blood began to flow in a continued stream, and he uttered some incoherent words, which were the most welcome sounds that ever saluted my ear. There was a country inn hard by, the landlord of which had by this time come with his people to give their assistance.—Thither my uncle being carried, was undressed and put to bed, wrapped in warm blankets; but having been moved too soon, he fainted away, and once more lay without sense or motion, notwithstanding all the efforts of Clinker and the landlord, who bathed his temples with Hungary water, and held a smelling-bottle to his nose. As I had heard of the efficacy of salt in such cases, I ordered all that was in the house to be laid under his head and body; and whether this application had the desired effect, or nature of herself prevailed, he, in less than a quarter of an hour, began to breathe regularly, and soon retrieved his recollection, to the unspeakable joy of all the by-standers. As for Clinker, his brain seemed to be affected,—He laughed, and wept, and danced about in such a distracted manner, that the landlord very judiciously conveyed him out of the room. My uncle, seeing me dropping wet, com-

prehended the whole of what had happened, and aſked if all the company was ſafe?—Being anſwered in the affirmative, he inſiſted on my putting on dry cloaths; and, having ſwallowed a little warm wine, deſired he might be left to his repoſe. Before I went to ſhift myſelf, I inquired about the reſt of the family—I found Mrs. Tabitha ſtill delirious from her fright, diſcharging very copiouſly the water ſhe had ſwallowed. She was ſupported by the captain, diſtilling drops from his uncurled periwig, ſo lank and ſo dank, that he looked like father Thame without his ſedges, embracing Iſis, while ſhe caſcaded in his urn. Mrs. Jenkins was preſent alſo, in a looſe bedgown, without either cap or handkerchief; but ſhe ſeemed to be as little *compos mentis* as her miſtreſs, and acted ſo many croſs purpoſes in the courſe of her attendance, that, between the two, Liſmahago had occaſion for all his philoſophy. As for Liddy, I thought the poor girl would have actually loſt her ſenſes. The good woman of the houſe had ſhifted her linen, and put her into bed; but ſhe was ſeized with the idea that her uncle had periſhed, and in this perſuaſion made a diſmal out-cry; nor did ſhe pay the leaſt regard to what I ſaid, when I ſolemnly aſſured her he was ſafe. Mr. Bramble hearing the noiſe, deſired ſhe might be brought into his chamber; and ſhe no ſooner received this intimation, than ſhe ran thither half naked, with the wildeſt expreſſion of eagerneſs in her countenance—Seeing the 'ſquire ſitting up in the bed, ſhe ſprung forwards, and throwing her arms about his neck, exclaimed in a moſt pathetic tone, "Are you—Are you indeed my uncle—"my dear uncle!—my beſt friend! my father!—"Are you really living? or is it an illuſion of my "poor brain!"—Honeſt Matthew was ſo much affected, that he could not help ſhedding tears, while he

kiſſed her forehead, ſaying, "My dear Liddy, I hope "I ſhall live long enough to ſhew how ſenſible I am "of your affection—But your ſpirits are fluttered, "child—You want reſt—Go to bed and compoſe "yourſelf."——"Well, I will, (ſhe replied)—but "ſtill methinks this cannot be real—The coach was "full of water—My uncle was under us all—Gra-"cious God!—you was under water—How did "you get out?—tell me that? or I ſhall think this "is all a deception."—"In what manner I was "brought out, I know as little as you do, my dear "(ſaid the 'ſquire); and, truly, that is a circum-"ſtance of which I want to be informed." I would have given him a detail of the whole adventure, but he would not hear me until I ſhould change my clothes; ſo that I had only time to tell him, that he owed his life to the courage and fidelity of Clinker; and having given him this hint, I conducted my ſiſter to her own chamber.

This accident happened about three o'clock in the afternoon, and in little more than an hour the hurricane was all over; but as the carriage was found to be ſo much damaged, that it could not proceed without conſiderable repairs, a blackſmith and wheelwright were immediately ſent for to the next market-town, and we congratulated ourſelves upon being houſed at an inn, which, though remote from the poſt-road, afforded exceeding good lodging. The women being pretty well compoſed, and the men all a-foot, my uncle ſent for his ſervant, and, in the preſence of Liſmahago and me, accoſted him in theſe words—"So, Clinker, I find you are reſolved I "ſha'n't die by water—As you have fiſhed me up "from the bottom at your own riſque, you are at leaſt "entitled to all the money that was in my pocket, "and there it is"—So ſaying, he preſented him with

a purſe containing thirty guineas, and a ring nearly of the ſame value——"God forbid! (cried Clinker) "your honour ſhall excuſe me—I am a poor fellow; but I have a heart—O! if your honour did "but know how I rejoice to ſee—Bleſſed be his "holy name, that made me the humble inſtrument—"But as for the lucre of gain, I renounce it—I have "done no more than my duty—no more than I "would have done for the moſt worthleſs of my "fellow-creatures—no more than I would have "done for captain Liſmahago or Archy Macalpine, "or any ſinner upon earth—But for your worſhip, "I would go through fire as well as water."——"I do believe it, Humphry (ſaid the 'ſquire); but "as you think it was your duty to ſave my life at the "hazard of your own, I think it is mine to expreſs "the ſenſe I have of your extraordinary fidelity "and attachment—I inſiſt upon your receiving this "ſmall token of my gratitude; but don't imagine that "I look upon this as an adequate recompence for the "ſervice you have done me—I have determined to "ſettle thirty pounds a-year upon you for life; and "I deſire theſe gentlemen will bear witneſs to this "my intention, of which I have a memorandum in "my pocket-book."——"Lord make me thankful for all theſe mercies (cried Clinker, ſobbing) "I have been a poor bankrupt from the beginning "—your honour's goodneſs found me when I was—"naked—when I was—ſick and forlorn——I underſtand your honour's looks—I would not give "offence—but my heart is very full—and if your "worſhip won't give me leave to ſpeak,—I muſt "vent it in prayers to heaven for my benefactor." When he quitted the room, Liſmahago ſaid, he ſhould have a much better opinion of his honeſty, if he did not whine and cant ſo abominably; but

that he had always obſerved thoſe weeping and praying fellows were hypocrites at bottom. Mr. Bramble made no reply to this ſarcaſtic remark, proceeding from the lieutenant's reſentment of Clinker's having, in pure ſimplicity of heart, ranked him with M'Alpine and the ſinners of the earth.——The landlord being called to receive ſome orders about the beds, told the 'ſquire that his houſe was very much at his ſervice, but he was ſure he ſhould not have the honour to lodge him and his company. He gave us to underſtand that his maſter, who lived hard by, would not ſuffer us to be at a public houſe, when there was accommodation for us at his own; and that, if he had not dined abroad in the neighbourhood, he would have undoubtedly come to offer his ſervices at our firſt arrival. He then launched out in praiſe of that gentleman, whom he had ſerved as butler, repreſenting him as a perfect miracle of goodneſs and generoſity. He ſaid he was a perſon of great learning, and allowed to be the beſt farmer in the country:—that he had a lady who was as much beloved as himſelf, and an only ſon, a very hopeful young gentleman, juſt recovered from a dangerous fever which had like to have proved fatal to the whole family; for, if the ſon had died, he was ſure the parents would not have ſurvived their loſs—He had not yet finiſhed the encomium of Mr. Dennifon when this gentleman arrived in a poſt-chaiſe, and his appearance ſeemed to juſtify all that had been ſaid in his favour. He is pretty well advanced in years, but hale, robuſt, and florid, with an ingenuous countenance, expreſſive of good-ſenſe and humanity. Having condoled with us on the accident which had happened, he ſaid he was come to conduct us to his habitation, where we ſhould be leſs incommoded than at ſuch a paltry inn, and ex

preſſed his hope that the ladies would not be the worſe for going thither in his carriage, as the diſtance was not above a quarter of a mile. My uncle having made a proper return to this courteous invitation, eyed him attentively, and then aſked if he had not been at Oxford, a commoner of Queen's college? When Mr. Denniſon anſwered, "Yes," with ſome marks of ſurpriſe—"Look at me then (ſaid our "'ſquire), and let us ſee if you can recollect the "features of an old friend, whom you have not ſeen "theſe forty years."——The gentleman, taking him by the hand, and gazing at him earneſtly,—"I pro-"teſt, (cried he) I do think I recal the idea of Mat-"thew Loyd of Glamorganſhire, who was ſtudent "of Jeſus." "Well remembered, my dear friend "Charles Denniſon, (exclaimed my uncle, preſſing "him to his breaſt), I am that very identical Matthew "Loyd of Glamorgan." Clinker, who had juſt entered the room with ſome coals for the fire, no ſooner heard theſe words, than, throwing down the ſcuttle on the toes of Liſmahago, he began to caper as if he was mad, crying—"Matthew Loyd of Gla-"morgan!—O Providence!—Matthew Loyd of Gla-"morgan!"——Then, claſping my uncle's knees, he went on in this manner——"Your worſhip muſt "forgive me—Matthew Loyd of Glamorgan!—O "Lord, Sir!—I can't contain myſelf!—I ſhall loſe "my ſenſes—" "Nay, thou haſt loſt them already, "I believe, (ſaid the 'ſquire, peeviſhly) prithee, "Clinker, be quiet--What is the matter?"--Humphry, fumbling in his boſom, pulled out an old wooden ſnuff-box, which he preſented in great trepidation to his maſter, who, opening it immediately, perceived a ſmall cornelian ſeal, and two ſcraps of paper—At ſight of theſe articles he ſtarted, and changed colour, and caſting his eye upon the inſcriptions—"Ha!

"—how!—what!—where (cried he) is the perſon "here named?" Clinker, knocking his own breaſt, could hardly pronounce theſe words—"Here—here "—here is Matthew Loyd, as the certificate ſheweth "—Humphry Clinker was the name of the ſarrier "that took me 'prentice"—"And who gave you "theſe tokens?" ſaid my uncle, haſtily—"My poor "mother on her death-bed,"—replied the other—"And who was your mother?" "Dorothy Twy-"ford, an pleaſe your honour, heretofore bar-keeper "at the Angel at Chippenham."—"And why were "not theſe tokens produced before?" "My mother "told me ſhe had wrote to Glamorganſhire at the "time of my birth, but had no anſwer; and that "afterwards, when ſhe made enquiry, there was no "ſuch perſon in that county." "And ſo in conſe-"quence of my changing my name and going abroad "at that very time, thy poor mother and thou "have been left to want and miſery—I am really "ſhocked at the conſequence of my own folly."—Then, laying his hand on Clinker's head, he added, "Stand forth, Matthew Loyd—You ſee, gentlemen, "how the ſins of my youth riſe up in judgment "againſt me—Here is my direction written with my "own hand, and a ſeal which I left at the woman's "requeſt; and this is a certificate of the child's baptiſm, "ſigned by the curate of the pariſh." The company were not a little ſurpriſed at this diſcovery, upon which Mr. Denniſon facetiouſly congratulated both the father and the ſon: for my part, I ſhook my new-found couſin heartily by the hand, and Liſmahago complimented him with the tears in his eyes, for he had been hopping about the room, ſwearing in broad Scotch, and bellowing with the pain occaſioned by the fall of the coal-ſcuttle upon his foot. He had even vowed to drive the *ſaul* out of the body of that mad raſcal:

but, perceiving the unexpected turn which things had taken, he wished him joy of his good fortune, observing that it went very near his heart, as he was like to be a great toe out of pocket by the discovery—Mr. Dennison now desired to know for what reason my uncle had changed the name by which he knew him at Oxford, and our 'squire satisfied him, by answering to this effect.—"I took my mother's name, which was Loyd, as heir to her lands in Glamorganshire; but, when I came of age, I sold that property, in order to clear my paternal estate, and resumed my real name; so that I am now Matthew Bramble, of Brambleton-hall in Monmouthshire, at your service; and this is my nephew, Jeremy Melford of Belfield, in the county of Glamorgan." At that instant the ladies entering the room, he presented Mrs. Tabitha as his sister, and Liddy as his niece. The old gentleman saluted them very cordially, and seemed struck with the appearance of my sister, whom he could not help surveying with a mixture of complacency and surprize ——"Sister, (said my uncle) there is a poor relation that recommends himself to your good graces—The quondam Humphry Clinker is metamorphosed into Matthew Loyd; and claims the honour of being your carnal kinsman—in short, the rogue proves to be a crab of my own planting in the days of hot blood and unrestrained libertinism." Clinker had by this time dropt upon one knee, by the side of Mrs. Tabitha, who, eyeing him askance, and flirting her fan with marks of agitation, thought proper, after some conflict, to hold out her hand for him to kiss, saying, with a demure aspect, "Brother, you have been very wicked: but I hope you will live to see the folly of your ways—I am very sorry to say, the young man whom you have this day acknowledged,

" has more grace and religion, by the gift of God, " than you with all your profane learning and re- " peated opportunity—I do think he has got the " trick of the eye and the tip of the nose of my " uncle Loyd of Fluydwellyn; and as for the long " chin, it is the very moral of the governor's—Bro- " ther, as you have changed his name, pray change " his dress also; that livery doth not become any per- " son that hath got our blood in his veins." Liddy seemed much pleased with this acquisition to the fa- mily.—She took him by the hand, declaring she should always be proud to own her connection with a virtuous young man, who had given so many proofs of his gratitude and affection to her uncle.—Mrs. Winifred Jenkins, extremely fluttered between her surprise at this discovery and the apprehension of losing her sweet-heart, exclaimed in a giggling tone, —" I wish you joy, Mr. Clinker—Floyd—I would " say—hi, hi, hi!—You'll be so proud you won't " look at your poor fellow-servants, oh, oh, oh!" Ho- nest Clinker owned he was overjoyed at his good for- tune, which was greater than he deserved—" But " wherefore should I be proud? (said he) a poor ob- " ject conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity " nursed in a parish work-house, and bred in a smithy " —Whenever I seem proud, Mrs. Jenkins, I beg " of you to put me in mind of the condition I was " in, when I first saw you between Chippenham " and Marlborough."

When this momentous affair was discussed to the satisfaction of all parties concerned, the weather be- ing dry, the ladies declined the carriage: so that we walked all together to Mr. Dennison's house, where we found the tea ready prepared by his lady, an am- able matron, who received us with all the benevo- lence of hospitality.—The house is old-fashioned and

irregular, but lodgeable and commodious. To the ſouth it has the river in front, at the diſtance of a hundred paces; and on the north there is a riſing ground, covered with an agreeable plantation; the greens and walks are kept in the niceſt order, and all is rural and romantic. I have not yet ſeen the young gentleman, who is on a viſit to a friend in the neighbourhood, from whoſe houſe he is not expected till to-morrow.

In the mean time, as there is a man going to the next market-town with letters for the poſt, I take this opportunity to ſend you the hiſtory of this day, which has been remarkably full of adventures; and you will own I give you them like a beef-ſteak at Dolly's, *hot* and *hot*, without ceremony and parade, juſt as they come from the recollection of

Yours,

J. MELFORD.

To Dr. LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

SINCE the laſt trouble I gave you, I have met with a variety of incidents, ſome of them of a ſingular nature, which I reſerve as a fund for converſation; but there are others ſo intereſting, that they will not keep in *petto* till meeting.

Know then, it was a thouſand pounds to a ſixpence, that you ſhould now be executing my will, inſtead of peruſing my letter! Two days ago, our coach was overturned in the midſt of a rapid river, where my life was ſaved with the utmoſt difficulty by the courage, activity, and preſence of mind of my ſer-

vant Humphry Clinker—But this is not the moſt ſurprizing circumſtance of the adventure—The ſaid Humphry Clinker proves to be Matthew Loyd, natural ſon of one Matthew Loyd of Glamorgan, if you know any ſuch perſon—You ſee, Doctor, that notwithſtanding all your philoſophy, it is not without ſome reaſon that we Welchmen aſcribe ſuch energy to the force of blood—but we ſhall diſcuſs this point on ſome future occaſion.

This is not the only diſcovery which I made in conſequence of our diſaſter—We happened to be wrecked upon a friendly ſhore—The lord of the manor is no other than Charles Denniſon, our fellow-rake at Oxford—We are now happily houſed with that gentleman, who has really attained to that pitch of rural felicity, at which I have been aſpiring theſe twenty years in vain. He is bleſſed with a conſort whoſe diſpoſition is ſuited to his own in all reſpects; tender, generous, and benevolent—She, moreover, poſſeſſes an uncommon ſhare of underſtanding, fortitude, and diſcretion, and is admirably qualified to be his companion, confidant, counſellor, and coadjutrix. Theſe excellent perſons have an only ſon, about nineteen years of age, juſt ſuch a youth as they could have wiſhed that Heaven would beſtow to fill up the meaſure of their enjoyment—In a word, they know no other allay to their happineſs, but their apprehenſion and anxiety about the life and concerns of this beloved object.

Our old friend, who had the misfortune to be a ſecond brother, was bred to the law, and even called to the bar; but he did not find himſelf qualified to ſhine in that province, and had very little inclination for his profeſſion—He diſobliged his father by marrying for love, without any conſideration of fortune; ſo that he had little or nothing to depend upon for

ſome years but his practice, which afforded him a bare ſubſiſtence; and the proſpect of an increaſing family began to give him diſturbance and diſquiet. In the mean time his father dying, was ſucceeded by his elder brother, a fox-hunter and a ſot, who neglected his affairs, inſulted and oppreſſed his ſervants, and in a few years had well nigh ruined the eſtate, when he was happily carried off by a fever, the immediate conſequence of a debauch. Charles, with the approbation of his wife, immediately determined to quit buſineſs, and retire into the country, although this reſolution was ſtrenuouſly and zealouſly oppoſed by every individual whom he conſulted on the ſubject. Thoſe who had tried the experiment, aſſured him that he could not pretend to breathe in the country for leſs than the double of what his eſtate produced; that, in order to be upon the footing of a gentleman, he would be obliged to keep horſes, hounds, carriages, with a ſuitable number of ſervants, and maintain an elegant table for the entertainment of his neighbours; that farming was a myſtery, known only to thoſe who had been bred up to it from the cradle, the ſucceſs of it depending not only upon ſkill and induſtry, but alſo upon ſuch attention and œconomy as no gentleman could be ſuppoſed to give or practiſe; accordingly, every attempt made by gentlemen miſcarried, and not a few had been ruined by their proſecution of agriculture——Nay, they affirmed, that he would find it cheaper to buy hay and oats for his cattle, and to go to market for poultry, eggs, kitchen herbs, and roots, and every the moſt inconſiderable article of houſe-keeping, than to have thoſe articles produced on his own ground.

Theſe objections did not deter Mr. Denniſon, becauſe they were chiefly founded on the ſuppoſition, that he would be obliged to lead a life of extrava-

gance and diſſipation, which he and his conſort equally deteſted, deſpiſed, and determined to avoid—The objects he had in view were health of body, peace of mind, and the private ſatisfaction of domeſtic quiet, unallayed by actual want, and uninterrupted by the fears of indigence—He was very moderate in his eſtimate of the neceſſaries, and even of the comforts of life—He required nothing but wholeſome air, pure water, agreeable exerciſe, plain diet, convenient lodging, and decent apparel. He reflected, that if a peaſant without education, or any great ſhare of natural ſagacity, could maintain a large family, and even become opulent upon a farm for which he paid an annual rent of two or three hundred pounds to the landlord, ſurely he himſelf might hope for ſome ſucceſs from his induſtry, having no rent to pay, but, on the contrary, three or four hundred pounds a-year to receive—He conſidered, that the earth was an indulgent mother, that yielded her fruits to all her children without diſtinction. He had ſtudied the theory of agriculture with a degree of eagerneſs and delight; and he could not conceive there was any myſtery in the practice, but what he ſhould be able to diſcloſe by dint of care and application. With reſpect to houſhold expence, he entered into a minute detail and inveſtigation, by which he perceived the aſſertions of his friends were altogether erroneous—He found he ſhould ſave ſixty pounds a year in the ſingle article of houſe-rent, and as much more in pocket-money and contingencies; that even butcher's meat was twenty per cent. cheaper in the country than in London; but that poultry, and almoſt every other circumſtance of houſe-keeping, might be had for leſs than one-half of what they coſt in town; beſides a conſiderable ſaving on the ſide of dreſs, in being

delivered from the oppreſſive impoſition of ridiculous modes, invented by ignorance, and adopted by folly.

As to the danger of vying with the rich in pomp and equipage, it never gave him the leaſt diſturbance. He was now turned of forty, and, having lived half that time in the buſy ſcenes of life, was well ſkilled in the ſcience of mankind. There cannot be in nature a more contemptible figure than that of a man, who, with five hundred a-year, preſumes to rival in expence a neighbour who poſſeſſes five times that income—His oſtentation, far from concealing, ſerves only to diſcover his indigence, and render his vanity the more ſhocking; for it attracts the eyes of cenſure, and excites the ſpirit of inquiry. There is not a family in the county, nor a ſervant in his own houſe, nor a farmer in the pariſh, but what knows the uttermoſt farthing that his lands produce, and all theſe behold him with ſcorn or compaſſion. I am ſurpriſed that theſe reflections do not occur to perſons in this unhappy dilemma, and produce a ſalutary effect; but the truth is, of all the paſſions incident to human nature, vanity is that which moſt effectually perverts the faculties of the underſtanding; nay, it ſometimes becomes ſo incredibly depraved, as to aſpire at infamy, and find pleaſure in bearing the ſtigmas of reproach.

I have now given you a ſketch of the character and ſituation of Mr. Denniſon, when he came down to take poſſeſſion of this eſtate: but as the meſſenger who carries the letters to the next town is juſt ſetting off, I ſhall reſerve what further I have to ſay on this ſubject till the next poſt, when you ſhall certainly hear from

Yours always,

Oct. 30. MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Dr. Lewis.

ONCE more, dear doctor, I resume the pen for your amusement—It was on the morning after our arrival that, walking out with my friend, Mr. Dennison, I could not help breaking forth into the warmest expressions of applause at the beauty of the scene, which is really enchanting; and I signified, in particular, how much I was pleased with the disposition of some detached groves, that afforded at once shelter and ornament to his habitation.

"When I took possession of these lands, about "two-and twenty years ago (said he), there was not "a tree standing within a mile of the house, except "those of an old neglected orchard, which produced "nothing but leaves and moss.——It was in the "gloomy month of November when I arrived, and "found the house in such a condition, that it might "have been justly stiled the *tower of desolation*—— "The court-yard was covered with nettles and docks, "and the garden exhibited such a rank plantation of "weeds as I had never seen before; the window-"shutters were falling in pieces;—the sashes broken; "and owls and jack-daws had taken possession of "the chimnies.—The prospect within was still more "dreary.—All was dark, and damp, and dirty be-"yond description:—the rain penetrated in several "parts of the roof;—in some apartments the very "floors had given way;—the hangings were parted "from the walls, and shaking in mouldy remnants; "—the glasses were dropping out of their frames;— "the family pictures were covered with dust;——

" and all the chairs and tables worm-eaten and crazy. " —There was not a bed in the houſe that could be " uſed, except one old-faſhioned machine, with a " high gilt teſter, and fringed curtains of yellow " mohair, which had been, for aught I know, two " centuries in the family.—In ſhort, there was no " furniture but the utenſils of the kitchen; and the " cellar afforded nothing but a few empty butts and " barrels, which ſtunk ſo abominably, that I would not " ſuffer any body to enter it until I had flaſhed a con- " ſiderable quantity of gunpowder to qualify the foul " air within.

" An old cottager and his wife, who were hired to " lie in the houſe, had left it with precipitation, al- " ledging, among other cauſes of retreat, that they " could not ſleep for frightful noiſes, and that my " poor brother certainly walked after his death.—In " a word, the houſe appeared uninhabitable; the " barn, ſtable, and out-houſes were in ruins; all the " fences broken down, and the fields laying waſte.

" The farmer who kept the key never dreamed " I had any intention to live upon the ſpot.—He " rented a farm of ſixty pounds, and his leaſe was " juſt expiring.—He had formed a ſcheme of being " appointed bailiff to the eſtate, and of converting the " houſe and the adjacent grounds to his own uſe.—A " hint of his intention I received from the curate at " my firſt arrival; I therefore did not pay much re- " gard to what he ſaid by way of diſcouraging me " from coming to ſettle in the country; but I was a " little ſtartled when he gave me warning that he " ſhould quit the farm at the expiration of his leaſe, " unleſs I would abate conſiderably in the rent.

" At this period I accidentally became acquainted " with a perſon, whoſe friendſhip laid the foundation " of all my proſperity.—In the next market-town, I

" chanced to dine at an inn with a Mr. Wilſon, who " was lately come to ſettle in the neighbourhood.— " He had been lieutenant of a man of war; but quit- " ted the ſea in ſome diſguſt, and married the only " daughter of farmer Bland, who lives in this pariſh, " and has acquired a good fortune in the way of huſ- " bandry.—Wilſon is one of the beſt-natured men I " ever knew; brave, frank, obliging, and ingenu- " ous.—He liked my converſation, I was charmed " with his liberal manner: an acquaintance imme- " diately commenced, and this was ſoon improved " into a friendſhip without reſerve —There are cha- " racters which, like ſimilar particles of matter, " ſtrongly attract each other.—He forthwith intro- " duced me to his father-in-law, farmer Bland, who " was well acquainted with every acre of my eſtate, " of conſequence well qualified to adviſe me on this " occaſion.—Finding I was inclined to embrace a " country life, and even to amuſe myſelf with the oc- " cupations of farming, he approved of my deſign— " He gave me to underſtand that all my farms were " underlett; that the eſtate was capable of great im- " provement; that there was plenty of chalk in the " neighbourhood; and that my own ground pro- " duced excellent marle for manure.—With reſpect " to the farm which was like to fall into my hands, " he ſaid he would willingly take it at the preſent " rent; but at the ſame time owned, that if I would " expend two hundred pounds in encloſure, it would " be worth more than double the ſum.

" Thus encouraged, I began the execution of my " ſcheme without further delay, and plunged into a " ſea of expence, though I had no fund in reſerve, " and the whole produce of the eſtate did not exceed " three hundred pounds a-year.—In one week my " houſe was made weather-tight, and thoroughly

"cleanſed from top to bottom; then it was well "ventilated by throwing all the doors and windows "open, and making blazing fires of wood in every "chimney from the kitchen to the garrets.—The floors "were repaired, the ſaſhes new glazed, and out of the "old furniture of the whole houſe, I made ſhift to "fit up a parlour and three chambers in a plain yet "decent manner.—The court-yard was cleared of "weeds and rubbiſh, and my friend Wilſon charged "himſelf with the dreſſing of the garden; brick-"layers were ſet at work upon the barn and ſtable; "and labourers engaged to reſtore the fences, and "begin the work of hedging and ditching, under the "direction of farmer Bland, at whoſe recommenda-"tion I hired a careful hind to lie in the houſe, and "keep conſtant fires in the apartments.

"Having taken theſe meaſures, I returned to "London, where I forthwith ſold off my houſehold-"furniture, and, in three weeks from my firſt viſit, "brought my wife hither to keep her Chriſtmas.—"Conſidering the gloomy ſeaſon of the year, the "drearineſs of the place, and the decayed aſpect of our "habitation, I was afraid that her reſolution would "ſink under the ſudden tranſition from a town-life "to ſuch a melancholy ſtate of ruſtication; but "was agreeably diſappointed.——She found t "reality leſs uncomfortable than the picture I l "drawn.—By this time, indeed, things were men "in appearance.——The out-houſes had riſen ou "their ruins; the pigeon-houſe was rebuilt and "pleniſhed by Wilſon, who alſo put my garde "decent order, and provided a good ſtock of poul "which made an agreeable figure in my yard; "the houſe, on the whole, looked like the hab "tion of human creatures.——Farmer Bland ſp "me a milch-cow for my family, and an ordi

" ſaddle-horſe for my ſervant to go to market at the " next town.—I hired a country lad for a footman, " the hind's daughter was my houſe-maid, and my " wife had brought a cook-maid from London.

" Such was my family when I began houſekeeping " in this place, with three hundred pounds in my " pocket, raiſed from the ſale of my ſuperfluous fur- " niture—I knew we ſhould find occupation enough " through the day to employ our time; but I dreaded " the long winter evenings; yet for theſe too we " found a remedy.—The curate, who was a ſingle " man, ſoon became ſo naturalized to the family, " that he generally lay in the houſe; and his com- " pany was equally agreeable and uſeful.—He was a " modeſt man, a good ſcholar, and perfectly well " qualified to inſtruct me in ſuch country matters as " I wanted to know.—Mr. Wilſon brought his " wife to ſee us, and ſhe became ſo fond of Mrs. Den- " niſon, that ſhe ſaid ſhe was never ſo happy as when " ſhe enjoyed the benefit of her converſation.—She " was then a fine buxom country laſs, exceedingly " docile, and as good-natured as her huſband Jack " Wilſon; ſo that a friendſhip enſued among the " women which hath continued to this day.

" As for Jack, he hath been my conſtant compa- " nion, counſellor, and commiſſary.——I would not " for a hundred pounds you ſhould leave my houſe " without ſeeing him.—Jack is an univerſal genius " —his talents are really aſtoniſhing—He is an excel- " lent carpenter, joiner, and turner, and a cunning " artiſt in iron and braſs.—He not only ſuperintended " my œconomy, but alſo preſided over my paſtimes. " —He taught me to brew beer, to make cyder, " perry, mead, uſquebaugh, and plague-water; to " cook ſeveral outlandiſh delicacies, ſuch as *ollas*, " *pepper-pots*, *pillaws*, *corrys*, *chabobs*, and *ſtuffatas*.—

" He underſtands all manner of games, from cheſs " down to chuck-farthing, ſings a good ſong, plays " upon the violin, and dances a hornpipe with ſur- " priſing agility.——He and I walked, and rode, and " hunted, and fiſhed together, without minding the " viciſſitudes of the weather; and I am perſuaded, " that in a raw, moiſt climate, like this of England, " continual exerciſe is as neceſſary as food to the pre- " ſervation of the individual.—In the courſe of two- " and-twenty years, there has not been one hour's " interruption or abatement in the friendſhip ſubſiſt- " ing between Wilſon's family and mine; and, what " is a rare inſtance of good fortune, that friendſhip is " continued to our children.—His ſon and mine are " nearly of the ſame age and the ſame diſpoſition; " they have been bred up together at the ſame ſchool " and college, and love each other with the warmeſt " affection.

" By Wilſon's means I likewiſe formed an ac- " quaintance with a ſenſible phyſician, who lives in " the next market-town; and his ſiſter, an agreeable " old maiden, paſſed the Chriſtmas holidays at our " houſe.—Mean while I began my farming with " great eagerneſs, and that very winter planted theſe " groves that pleaſed you ſo much.——As for the " neighbouring gentry, I had no trouble from that " quarter during my firſt campaign: they were all " gone to town before I ſettled in the country; and " by the ſummer I had taken meaſures to defend " myſelf from their attacks.—When a gay equipage " came to my gates, I was never at home; thoſe " who viſited me in a modeſt way, I received; and " according to the remarks I made on their charac- " ters and converſation, either rejected their advances, " or returned their civility.—I was in general deſpiſ- " ed among the faſhionable company as a low fel-

" low, both in breeding and circumſtances; never-
" theleſs, I found a few individuals of moderate for-
" tune, who gladly adopted my ſtile of living; and
" many others would have acceded to our ſociety,
" had they not been prevented by the pride, envy,
" and ambition of their wives and daughters.—Thoſe,
" in times of luxury and diſſipation, are the rocks
" upon which all the ſmall eſtates in the country are
" wrecked.

" I reſerved in my own hands ſome acres of
" ground adjacent to the houſe, for making experi-
" ments in agriculture, according to the directions
" of Lyle, Tull, Hart, Duhamel, and others who have
" written on this ſubject; and qualified their theory
" with the practical obſervations of farmer Bland,
" who was my great maſter in the art of huſbandry.
" —In ſhort, I became enamoured of a country life;
" and my ſucceſs greatly exceeded my expectation.
" —I drained bogs, burned heath, grubbed up furze
" and fern; I planted copſe and willows where no-
" thing elſe would grow; I gradually incloſed all my
" farms, and made ſuch improvements, that my eſtate
" now yields me clear twelve hundred pounds a year.
" —All this time my wife and I have enjoyed unin-
" terrupted health, and a regular flow of ſpirits, ex-
" cept on a very few occaſions, when our chearful-
" neſs was invaded by ſuch accidents as are inſeparable
" from the condition of life.—I loſt two children in
" their infancy by the ſmall-pox, ſo that I have one
" ſon only, in whom all our hopes are centered.—
" He went yeſterday to viſit a friend, with whom he
" has ſtaid all night, but he will be here to dinner—
" I ſhall this day have the pleaſure of preſenting him
" to you and your family; and I flatter myſelf you
" will find him not altogether unworthy of our af-
" fection.

"The truth is, either I am blinded by the partia-
"lity of a parent, or he is a boy of a very amiable
"character; and yet his conduct has given us unspeak-
"able disquiet.——You must know, we had pro-
"jected a match between him and a gentleman's
"daughter in the next county, who will in all pro-
"bability be heiress of a considerable fortune; but
"it seems he had a personal disgust to the alliance.—
"He was then at Cambridge, and tried to gain time
"on various pretences; but being pressed in letters
"by his mother and me to give a definitive answer, he
"fairly gave his tutor the slip, and disappeared about
"eight months ago.—Before he took this rash step,
"he wrote me a letter, explaining his objections to
"the match, and declaring, that he would keep him-
"self concealed until he should understand that his
"parents would dispense with his contracting an en-
"gagement that must make him miserable for life,
"and he prescribed the form of advertising in a cer-
"tain news-paper, by which he might be apprised
"of our sentiments on this subject.

"You may easily conceive how much we were
"alarmed and afflicted by this elopement, which he
"had made without dropping the least hint to his
"companion Charles Wilson, who belonged to the
"same college.—We resolved to punish him with
"the appearance of neglect, in hopes that he would
"return of his own accord; but he maintained his
"purpose till the young lady chose a partner for
"herself; then he produced himself, and made his
"peace by the mediation of Wilson. Suppose we
"should unite our families by joining him with your
"niece, who is one of the most lovely creatures I
"ever beheld—My wife is already as fond of her as
"if she were her own child, and I have a presenti-
"ment that my son will be captivated by her at first

" ſight." " Nothing could be more agreeable to " all our family (ſaid I) than ſuch an alliance; but, " my dear friend, candour obliges me to tell you, that " I am afraid Liddy's heart is not wholly diſengaged " —there is a curſed obſtacle—" " You mean the " young ſtroller at Glouceſter (ſaid he)—You are " ſurpriſed that I ſhould know this circumſtance; " but you will be more ſurpriſed when I tell you " that ſtroller is no other than my ſon George Denni- " ſon—That was the character he aſſumed in his " eclipſe." " I am, indeed, aſtoniſhed and over- " joyed (cried I), and ſhall be happy beyond expreſ- " ſion to ſee your propoſal take effect."

He then gave me to underſtand that the young gentleman, at his emerging from concealment, had diſcloſed his paſſion for Miſs Melford, the niece of Mr. Bramble of Monmouthſhire. Though Mr. Denniſon little dreamed that this was his old friend Matthew Loyd, he nevertheleſs furniſhed his ſon with proper credentials, and he had been at Bath, London, and many other places in queſt of us, to make himſelf and his pretenſions known.—The bad ſucceſs of his enquiry had ſuch an effect upon his ſpirits, that immediately at his return he was ſeized with a dangerous fever, which overwhelmed his parents with terror and affliction; but he was now happily recovered, though ſtill weak and diſconſolate. My nephew joining us in our walk, I informed him of theſe circumſtances, with which he was wonderfully pleaſed. He declared he would promote the match to the utmoſt of his power, and that he longed to embrace young Mr. Denniſon as his friend and brother.—Mean while, the father went to deſire his wife to communicate this diſcovery gradually to Liddy, that her delicate nerves might not ſuffer too ſudden a ſhock; and I immediately imparted the

particulars to my ſiſter Tabby, who expreſſed ſome ſurprize, not altogether unmixed, I believe, with an emotion of envy; for, though ſhe could have no objection to an alliance at once ſo honourable and advantageous, ſhe heſitated in giving her conſent, on pretence of the youth and inexperience of the parties: at length, however, ſhe acquieſced, in conſequence of having conſulted with Captain Liſmahago.

Mr. Denniſon took care to be in the way when his ſon arrived at the gate, and, without giving him time or opportunity to make any enquiry about the ſtrangers, brought him up ſtairs to be preſented to Mr. Loyd and his family—The firſt perſon he ſaw when he entered the room was Liddy, who, notwithſtanding all her preparation, ſtood trembling in the utmoſt confuſion—At ſight of this object he was fixed motionleſs to the floor, and, gazing at her with the utmoſt eagerneſs of aſtoniſhment, exclaimed, "Sacred heaven! what is this!—ha! wherefore"—Here his ſpeech failing, he ſtood ſtraining his eyes, in the moſt emphatic ſilence—"George (ſaid his "father), this is my friend Mr. Loyd." Roufed at this intimation, he turned and received my ſalute, when I ſaid, "Young gentleman, if "you had truſted me with your ſecret at our laſt "meeting, we ſhould have parted upon better terms." Before he could make any anſwer, Jery came round and ſtood before him with open arms.—At firſt, he ſtarted and changed colour; but, after a ſhort pauſe, he ruſhed into his embrace, and they hugged one another as if they had been intimate friends from their infancy: then he paid his reſpects to Mrs. Tabitha, and advancing to Liddy, "Is it poſſible (cried "he) that my ſenſes do not play me falſe!—that I "ſee Miſs Melford under my father's roof—that I

"am permitted to ſpeak to her without giving of-
"fence—and that her relations have honoured me
"with their countenance and protection." Liddy
bluſhed, and trembled, and faultered—"To be ſure,
"ſir (ſaid ſhe), it is a very ſurpriſing circumſtance—
"—a great—a providential——I really know not
"what I ſay—but I beg you will think I have ſaid
"what's agreeable."

Mrs. Dennifon interpoſing ſaid, "Compoſe your-
"ſelves, my dear children—Your mutual happineſs
"ſhall be our peculiar care." The ſon going up to
his mother, kiſſed one hand; my niece bathed the
other with her tears; and the good old lady preſſed
them both in their turns to her breaſt—The lovers
were too much affected to get rid of their embarraſſ-
ments for one day; but the ſcene was much enlivened
by the arrival of Jack Wilſon, who brought, as
uſual, ſome game of his own killing——His honeſt
countenance was a good letter of recommendation.—
I received him like a dear friend after a long ſepara-
tion; and I could not help wondering to ſee him
ſhake Jery by the hand as an old acquaintance.——
They had, indeed, been acquainted ſome days, in con-
ſequence of a diverting incident, which I ſhall ex-
plain at meeting.—The ſame night a conſultation was
held upon the concerns of the lovers, when the match
was formally agreed to, and all the marriage articles
were ſettled without the leaſt diſpute.—My nephew
and I promiſed to make Liddy's fortune five thouſand
pounds. Mr. Dennifon declared, he would immediately
make over one-half of his eſtate to his ſon, and that
his daughter-in-law ſhould be ſecured in a jointure of
four hundred.—Tabby propoſed, that, conſidering
their youth, they ſhould undergo one year at leaſt of
probation before the indiſſoluble knot ſhould be tied;
but the young gentleman being very impatient and

importunate, and the ſcheme implying that the young couple ſhould live in the houſe, under the wings of his parents, we reſolved to make them happy without further delay.

As the law requires that the parties ſhould be ſome weeks reſident in the pariſh, we ſhall ſtay here till the ceremony is performed.——Mr. Liſmahago requeſts that he may take the benefit of the ſame occaſion; ſo that next Sunday the banns will be publiſhed for all four together.— I doubt, I ſhall not be able to paſs my Chriſtmas with you at Brambleton-hall.— Indeed, I am ſo agreeably ſituated in this place, that I have no deſire to ſhift my quarters; and I foreſee that when the day of ſeparation comes, there will be abundance of ſorrow on all ſides.—In the mean time, we muſt make the moſt of thoſe bleſſings which Heaven beſtows.—Conſidering how you are tethered by your profeſſion, I cannot hope to ſee you ſo far from home; yet the diſtance does not exceed a ſummer day's journey, and Charles Denniſon, who deſires to be remembered to you, would be rejoiced to ſee his old compotator; but as I am now ſtationary, I expect regular anſwers to the epiſtles of

Yours invariably,

Oct. 20. MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR WAT,

EVERY day is now big with incident and diſcove ry——Young Mr. Denniſon proves to be no oth than that identical perſon whom I have execrated long, under the name of Wilſon—He had elope from college at Cambridge, to avoid a match that h deteſted, and acted in different parts of the country a a ſtroller, until the lady in queſtion made choice o a huſband for herſelf; then he returned to his father and diſcloſed his paſſion for Liddy, which met wit the approbation of his parent, though the father litt imagined that Mr. Bramble was his old companio Matthew Lloyd. The young gentleman being em powered to make honourable propoſals to my unc and me, had been in ſearch of us all over Englan without effect; and he it was whom I had ſee paſs on horſeback by the window of the inn where I ſtood with my ſiſter, but he little dreamed that w were in the houſe—As for the real Mr. Wilſon whom I called forth to combat by miſtake, he is th neighbour and intimate friend of old Mr. Denniſon and this connexion had ſuggeſted to the ſon, the ide of taking that name while he remained in obſcurity.

You may eaſily conceive what pleaſure I mu have felt on diſcovering that the honour of our fami was in no danger from the conduct of a ſiſter, whom I love with uncommon affection; that, inſtead o debaſing her ſentiments and views to a wretche ſtroller, ſhe had really captivated the heart of

entleman, her equal in rank, and ſuperior in for-
une; and that, as his parents approved of his attach-
ent, I was on the eve of acquiring a brother-in-
aw ſo worthy of my friendſhip and eſteem. George
Denniſon is, without all queſtion, one of the moſt
ccompliſhed young fellows in England. His perſon
s at once elegant and manly, and his underſtanding
ighly cultivated. Tho' his ſpirit is lofty, his heart
s kind; and his manner ſo engaging, as to command
eneration and love, even from malice and indiffer-
nce. When I weigh my own character with his,
am aſhamed to find myſelf ſo light in the balance;
ut the compariſon excites no envy—I propoſe him
s a model for imitation—I have endeavoured to re-
ommend myſelf to his friendſhip, and hope I have
ready found a place in his affection. I am, how-
ver, mortified to reflect what flagrant injuſtice
e every day commit, and what abſurd judgments
e form, in viewing objects through the falſifying
edium of prejudice and paſſion. Had you aſked
e a few days ago, the picture of Wilſon the player,
ſhould have drawn a portrait very unlike the real
erſon and character of George Denniſon—Without
l doubt, the greateſt advantage acquired in travel-
ng and peruſing mankind in the original, is that of
ſpelling thoſe ſhameful clouds that darken the fa-
lties of the mind, preventing it from judging with
ndour and preciſion.

The real Wilſon is a great original, and the beſt
mpered companionable man I ever knew—I que-
on if ever he was angry or low-ſpirited in his life.
e makes no pretenſions to letters; but he is
adept in every thing elſe that can be either uſeful
entertaining. Among other qualifications, he is
complete ſportſman, and counted the beſt ſhot in
e county. He and Denniſon, and Liſmahago and

I, attended by Clinker, went a-ſhooting yeſterday and made great havock among the partridges—To-morrow we ſhall take the field againſt the woodcock and ſnipes. In the evening we dance and ſing, or play at commerce, loo, and quadrille.

Mr. Denniſon is an elegant poet, and has written ſome detached pieces on the ſubject of his paſſion for Liddy, which muſt be very flattering to the vanity of a young woman—Perhaps he is one of the greateſt theatrical geniuſes that ever appeared. He ſometimes entertains us with reciting favourite ſpeeches from our beſt plays. We are reſolved to convert the great hall into a theatre, and get up the *Beaux Stratagem* without delay—I think I ſhall make no contemptible figure in the character of *Scrub*; and Lismahago will be very great in *Captain Gibbet*—Wilſon undertakes to entertain the country people with *Harlequin Skeleton*, for which he has got a jacket ready painted with his own hand.

Our ſociety is really enchanting. Even the ſeverity of Liſmahago relaxes, and the vinegar of Miſs Tabby is remarkably dulcified, ever ſince it was agreed that ſhe ſhould take precedency of her niece in being firſt nooſed: for, you muſt know, the day is fixed for Liddy's marriage; and the banns for both couples have been already once publiſhed in the pariſh-church. The captain earneſtly begged that one trouble might ſerve for all, and Tabitha aſſented with a vile affectation of reluctance. Her inamorato, who came hither very ſlenderly equipt, has ſent for his baggage to London, which, in all probability, will not arrive in time for the wedding; but it is of no great conſequence, as every thing is to be tranſacted with the utmoſt privacy—Meanwhile, directions are given for making out the contracts of marriage, which are

very favourable for both females: Liddy will be secured in a good jointure; and her aunt will remain miſtreſs of her own fortune, except one half of the intereſt, which her huſband ſhall have a right to enjoy for his natural life: I think this is as little in conſcience as can be done for a man who yokes with ſuch a partner for life.

Theſe expectants ſeem to be ſo happy, that if Mr. Denniſon had an agreeable daughter, I believe I ſhould be for making the third couple in this country-dance. The humour ſeems to be infectious; for Clinker, alias Loyd, has a month's mind to play the fool, in the ſame faſhion, with Mrs. Winifred Jenkins. He has even ſounded me on the ſubject; but I have given him no encouragement to proſecute this ſcheme—I told him I thought he might do better, as there was no engagement nor promiſe ſubſiſting; that I did not know what deſigns my uncle might have formed for his advantage; but I was of opinion, that he ſhould not, at preſent, run the riſque of diſobliging him by any premature application of this nature—Honeſt Humphry proteſted he would ſuffer death ſooner than do or ſay any thing that ſhould give offence to the 'ſquire: but he owned he had a kindneſs for the young woman, and had reaſon to think ſhe looked upon him with a favourable eye; that he conſidered this mutual manifeſtation of good will as an engagement underſtood, which ought to be binding to the conſcience of an honeſt man; and, he hoped, the 'ſquire and I would be of the ſame opinion, when we ſhould be at leiſure to beſtow any thought about the matter—I believe he is in the right; and we ſhall find time to take his caſe into conſideration—You ſee we are fixed for ſome weeks at leaſt,

and as you have had a long reſpite, I hope you will begin immediately to diſcharge the arrears due to

Your affectionate

Oct. 14. J. MELFORD.

To Miſs LÆTITIA WILLIS, at Glouceſter.

MY DEAR, DEAR LETTY,

NEVER did I ſit down to write in ſuch agitation as I now feel—In the courſe of a few days, we have met with a number of incidents ſo wonderful and intereſting, that all my ideas are thrown into confuſion and perplexity —You muſt not expect either method or coherence in what I am going to relate—my dearest Willis. Since my laſt, the aſpect of affairs is totally changed! — and ſo changed! — But I would fain give you a regular detail—In paſſing a river about eight days ago, our coach was overturned, and ſome of us narrowly eſcaped with life — My uncle had well-nigh periſhed—O Heaven, I cannot reflect upon that circumſtance without horror —I ſhould have loſt my beſt friend, my father and protector, but for the reſolution and activity of his ſervant Humphry Clinker, whom Providence really ſeems to have placed near him for the neceſſity of this occaſion—I would not be thought ſuperſtitious; but ſurely he acted from a ſtronger impulſe than common fidelity — Was it not the voice of Nature that loudly called upon him to ſave the life of his own father? for, O Letty, it was diſcovered that Humphry Clinker was my uncle's natural ſon.

Almoſt at the ſame inſtant, a gentleman, who

came to offer us his aſſiſtance, and invite us to his houſe, turned out to be a very old friend of Mr. Bramble——His name is Mr. Denniſon, one of the worthieſt men living; and his lady is a perfect ſaint upon earth. They have an only ſon —Who do you think is this only ſon?—O Letty!— O gracious heaven! how my heart palpitates, when I tell you that this only ſon of Mr. Denniſon is that very identical youth who, under the name of Wilſon, has made ſuch ravage in my heart! — Yes, my dear friend! Wilſon and I are now lodged in the ſame houſe, and converſe together freely—His father approves of his ſentiments in my favour; his mother loves me with all the tenderneſs of a parent; my uncle, my aunt, and my brother, no longer oppoſe my inclinations — On the contrary, they have agreed to make us happy without delay; and in three weeks or a month, if no unforeſeen accident intervenes, your friend Lydia Melford will have changed her name and condition—I ſay, if *no accident intervenes*, becauſe ſuch a torrent of ſucceſs makes me tremble!—— I wiſh there may not be ſomething treacherous in this ſudden reconciliation of fortune — I have no merit — I have no title to ſuch felicity! Far from enjoying the proſpect that lies before me, my mind is harraſſed with a continued tumult, made up of hopes and wiſhes, doubts and apprehenſions——I can neither eat nor ſleep, and my ſpirits are in perpetual flutter. — I more than ever feel that vacancy in my heart, which your preſence alone can fill.— The mind, in every diſquiet, ſeeks to repoſe itſelf on the boſom of a friend; and this is ſuch a trial as I really know not how to ſupport without your company and counſel — I muſt therefore, dear Letty, put your friendſhip to the teſt — I muſt beg you will come and do the laſt offices of bridenhood to your companion Lydia Melford.

This letter goes incloſed in one to our worthy governeſs, from Mrs. Denniſon, intreating her to interpoſe with your mamma, that you may be allowed to favour us with your company on this occaſion; and I flatter myſelf that no material objection can be made to our requeſt——The diſtance from hence to Glouceſter does not exceed one hundred miles, and the roads are good.—Mr. Clinker, alias Loyd, ſhall be ſent over to attend your motions—If you ſtep into the poſt-chaiſe, with your maid Betty Barker, at ſeven in the morning, you will arrive by four in the afternoon at the half-way houſe, where there is good accommodation. There you ſhall be met by my brother and myſelf, who will next day conduct you to this place, where, I am ſure, you will find yourſelf perfectly at your eaſe in the midſt of an agreeable ſociety.—Dear Letty, I will take no refuſal—If you have any friendſhip — any humanity — you will come. — I deſire that immediate application may be made to your mamma; and that the moment her permiſſion is obtained, you will appriſe

Your ever faithful

Oct. 14. LYDIA MELFORD.

To Mrs. JERMYN, at her Houſe in Glouceſter.

DEAR MADAM,

THOUGH I was not ſo fortunate as to be favoured with an anſwer to the letter with which I troubled you in the ſpring, I ſtill flatter myſelf that you retain ſome regard for me and my concerns. I am ſure the care and tenderneſs with which I was treate

under your roof and tuition, demand the warmeſt returns of gratitude and affection on my part, and theſe ſentiments, I hope, I ſhall cheriſh to my dying day—At preſent, I think it my duty to make you acquainted with the happy iſſue of that indiſcretion by which I incurred your diſpleaſure. — Ah! madam, the ſlighted Wilſon is metamorphoſed into George Denniſon, only ſon and heir of a gentleman, whoſe character is ſecond to none in England, as you may underſtand upon enquiry. My guardians, my brother and I, are now in his houſe; and an immediate union of the two families is to take place in the perſons of the young gentleman and your poor Lydia Melford. You will eaſily conceive how embarraſſing this ſituation muſt be to a young inexperienced creature like me, of weak nerves and ſtrong apprehenſions; and how much the preſence of a friend and confidante would encourage and ſupport me on this occaſion. You know, that of all the young ladies, Miſs Willis was ſhe that poſſeſſed the greateſt ſhare of my confidence and affection; and, therefore, I fervently wiſh to have the happineſs of her company at this intereſting criſis.

Mrs. Denniſon, who is the object of univerſal love and eſteem, has, at my requeſt, written to you on this ſubject, and I now beg leave to reinforce her ſollicitation — My dear Mrs. Jermyn! my ever-honoured governeſs! let me conjure you by that fondneſs which once diſtinguiſhed your favourite Liddy! by that benevolence of heart which diſpoſes you to promote the happineſs of your fellow-creatures in general! lend a favourable ear to my petition, and uſe your influence with Letty's mamma, that my moſt earneſt deſire may be gratified. Should I be indulged in this particular, I will engage to return her ſafe, and even to accompany her to Glouceſter,

where, if you will give me leave, I will preſent to you under another name,

Dear madam,

Your moſt affectionate

Humble ſervant,

And penitent,

Oct. 14. LYDIA MELFORD.

To Mrs. MARY JONES, at Brambleton-hall.

O MARY JONES! MARY JONES!

I HAVE met with ſo many axidents, ſuprifals, and terrifications, that I am in a parfeck fantago, and I believe I ſhall never be my own ſelf again. Laſt week I was dragged out of a river like a drowned rat, and loſt a bran-new night-cap, with a fulfur ſtay-hook, that coſt me a good half-a-crown, and an odd ſhoe of green gallow monkey; beſides wetting my cloaths and taring my ſmuck, and an ugly gaſh made in the back part of my thy, by the ſtump of a tree — To be ſure, Mr. Clinker tuck me out of the cox; but he left me on my back in the water, to go to the 'ſquire; and I mought have had a watery grave, if a millar had not brought me to the dry land — But, O! what choppings and changes, girl! — The player man that came after miſs Liddy, and frightened me with a beard at Briſtol Well, is now matthewmurphy'd into a fine young gentleman, ſon and hare of 'ſquire Dolliſon ——We are all together in the ſame houſe, and all parties have agreed to the

match, and in a fortnite the ſurrymony will be preformed.

But this is not the only wedding we are to have—Miſtreſs is reſolved to have the ſame frolick, in the naam of God! Laſt Sunday in the pariſh crutch, if my own ars may be truſted, the clerk called the banes of marridge betwixt Opaniah Laſhmeyheygo, and Tapitha Bramble, ſpinſter; he mought as well have called her inkle weaver, for ſhe never ſpun and hank of yarn in her life — Young 'ſquire Dolliſon and miſs Liddy make the ſecond kipple; and there might have been a turd, but times are changed with Mr. Clinker ——O, Molly! what doſt think? Mr. Clinker is found to be a pye-blow of our own 'ſquire, and his rite naam is Mr. Mattew Loyd (thof God he noſe how that can be); and he is now out of livery, and wares ruffles — but I new him when he was out at elbows, and had not a rag to kiver his piſtereroes; ſo he need not hold his head ſo high— He is for ſartain very umble and compleſant, and purtuſts as how he has the ſame regard as before; but that he is no longer his own maſter, and cannot portend to marry without the 'ſquire's conſent—He ſays we muſt wait with patience, and truſt to Providence, and ſuch nonſenſe—But if ſo be as how his regard be the ſame, why ſtand ſhilly-ſhally? Why not ſtrike while the iron is hot, and ſpeak to the 'ſquire without loſs of time?—What ſubjection can the 'ſquire make to our coming together? ——Thof my father wa'n't a gentleman, my mother was an honeſt woman — I didn't come on the wrong ſide of the blanket, girl—My parents were marred according to the rights of holy mother crutch, in the face of men and angles——Mark that, Mary Jones.

Mr. Clinker (Loyd I would ſay) had beſt look to his tackle— There be other chaps in the market, as

the ſaying is——What would he ſay if I ſhould except the ſoot and ſarvice of the young 'ſquire's valley? Mr. Machappy is a gentleman born, and has been abroad in the wars—He has a world of buck larning, and ſpeaks French and Ditch, and Scotch, and all manner of outlandiſh lingos; to be ſure he's a little the worſe for the ware, and is much given to drink; but then he's good-tempered in his liquor, and a prudent woman mought wind him about her finger—But I have no thoughts of him, I'll aſſure you—I ſcorn for to do, or to ſay, or to think any thing that mought give unbreech to Mr. Loyd, without furder occaſion—But then I have ſuch vapours, Molly—I ſit and cry by myſelf, and take aſs of etida, and ſmill to burnt fathers, and kindal ſnuffs; and I pray conſtantly for greaſe, that I may have a glimpſe of the new light, to ſhew me the way through this wretched veil of tares—And yet I want for nothing in this family of love, where every ſoul is ſo kind and ſo courteous that wan would think they are ſo many ſaints in haven. Dear Molly, I recommend myſelf to your prayers, being, with my ſarvice to Saul,

Your ever loving,

And diſcounſelled friend,

Oct. 14. WIN. JENKINS.

To Dr. LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

YOU cannot imagine what pleaſure I have in ſeeing your hand-writing, after ſuch a long ceſſation on

your ſide of our correſpondence — Yet, Heaven knows, I have often ſeen your hand-writing with diſguſt — I mean when it appeared in abbreviations of apothecary's Latin—I like your hint of making intereſt for the reverſion of the collector's place for Mr. Liſmahago, who is much pleaſed with the ſcheme, and preſents you with his compliments, and beſt thanks, for thinking ſo kind of his concerns—The man ſeems to mend upon further acquaintance. That harſh reſerve, which formed a diſagreeable huſk about his character, begins to peel off in the courſe of our communication — I have great hopes that he and Tabby will be as happily paired as any two draught animals in the kingdom; and I make no doubt but that he will prove a valuable acquiſition to our little ſociety, in the article of converſation, by the fire-ſide in winter.

Your objection to my paſſing this ſeaſon of the year at ſuch a diſtance from home, would have more weight if I did not find myſelf perfectly at my eaſe where I am; and my health ſo much improved, that I am diſpoſed to bid defiance to gout and rheumatiſm — I begin to think I have put myſelf on the ſuperannuated liſt too ſoon, and abſurdly ſought for health in the retreats of lazineſs — I am perſuaded that all valetudinarians are too ſedentary, too regular, and too cautious —— We ſhould ſometimes increaſe the motion of the machine, to *unclog the wheels of life*; and now and then take a plunge amidſt the waves of exceſs, in order to caſe-harden the conſtitution. I have even found a change of company as neceſſary as a change of air, to promote a vigorous circulation of the ſpirits, which is the very eſſence and criterion of good health.

Since my laſt, I have been performing the duties of friendſhip, that required a great deal of exerciſe, from

which I hope to derive ſome benefit — Underſtanding, by the greateſt accident in the world, that Mr. Baynard's wife was dangerouſly ill of a pleuritic fever, I borrowed Denniſon's poſt-chaiſe, and went acroſs the country to his habitation, attended only by Loyd (quondam Clinker) on horſeback.— As the diſtance is not above thirty miles, I arrived about four in the afternoon, and meeting the phyſician at the door, was informed that his patient had juſt expired.—I was inſtantly ſeized with a violent emotion, but it was not grief. — The family being in confuſion, I ran up ſtairs into the chamber, where, indeed, they were all aſſembled —The aunt ſtood wringing her hands in a kind of ſtupefaction of ſorrow, but my friend acted all the extravagancies of affliction —— He held the body in his arms, and poured forth ſuch a lamentation, that one would have thought he had loſt the moſt amiable conſort and valuable companion upon earth.

Affection may certainly exiſt independent of eſteem; nay, the ſame object may be lovely in one reſpect, and deteſtable in another.——The mind has a ſurpriſing faculty of accommodating, and even attaching itſelf, in ſuch a manner, by dint of uſe, to things that are in their own nature diſagreeable, and even pernicious, that it cannot bear to be delivered from them without reluctance and regret. Baynard was ſo abſorbed in his delirium, that he did not perceive me when I entered, and deſired one of the women to conduct the aunt into her own chamber.—At the ſame time I begged the tutor to withdraw the boy, who ſtood gaping in a corner, very little affected with the diſtreſs of the ſcene.—Theſe ſteps being taken, I waited till the firſt violence of my friend's tranſport was abated, then diſengaged him gently from the melancholy object, and led him by the hand into ano-

ther apartment; though he ſtruggled ſo hard, that I was obliged to have recourſe to the aſſiſtance of his valet de chambre.—In a few minutes, however, he recollected himſelf, and folding me in his arms, "This "(cried he) is a friendly office, indeed!—I know "not how you came hither; but, I think, Heaven "ſent you to prevent my going diſtracted—O Mat- "thew! I have loſt my dear Harriet!—my poor "gentle, tender creature, that loved me with ſuch "warmth and purity of affection—my conſtant com- "panion of twenty years!—She's gone—ſhe's gone "for ever!—Heaven and earth! where is ſhe?—— "Death ſhall not part us!"

So ſaying, he ſtarted up, and could hardly be with-held from returning to the ſcene we had quitted—You will perceive it would have been very abſurd for me to argue with a man that talked ſo madly.—On all ſuch occaſions, the firſt torrent of paſſion muſt be allowed to ſubſide gradually. I endeavoured to beguile his attention by ſtarting little hints, and inſinuating other objects of diſcourſe imperceptibly; and being exceedingly pleaſed in my own mind at this event, I exerted myſelf with ſuch an extraordinary flow of ſpirits as was attended with ſucceſs.—In a few hours he was calm enough to hear reaſon, and even to own that Heaven could not have interpoſed more effectually to reſcue him from diſgrace and ruin—That he might not, however, relapſe into weakneſſes for want of company, I paſſed the night in his chamber, in a little tent bed brought thither on purpoſe; and well it was I took this precaution, for he ſtarted up in bed ſeveral times, and would have played the fool, if I had not been preſent.

Next day he was in a condition to talk of buſineſs, and veſted me with full authority over his houſhold,

which I began to exercise without loss of time, tho' not before he knew and approved of the scheme I had projected for his advantage.—He would have quitted the house immediately; but this retreat I opposed.—Far from encouraging a temporary disgust, which might degenerate into an habitual aversion, I resolved, if possible, to attach him more than ever to his Household Gods.—I gave directions for the funeral to be as private as was consistent with decency; I wrote to London, that an inventory and estimate might be made of the furniture and effects in his town-house, and gave notice to the landlord, that Mr. Baynard would quit the premises at Lady-day; I set a person at work to take account of every thing in the country-house, including horses, carriages, and harness; I settled the young gentleman at a boarding-school, kept by a clergyman in the neighbourhood, and thither he went without reluctance, as soon as he knew that he was to be troubled no more with his tutor, whom we dismissed.—The aunt continued very sullen, and never appeared at table, tho' Mr. Baynard paid his respects to her every day in her own chamber; there also she held conferences with the waiting-women and other servants of the family: but the moment her niece was interred, she went away in a post-chaise prepared for that purpose; she did not leave the house, however, without giving Mr. Baynard to understand, that the wardrobe of her niece was the perquisite of her woman; accordingly that worthless drab received all the clothes, laces, and linen, of her deceased mistress, to the value of five hundred pounds, at a moderate computation.

The next step I took was to disband that legion of supernumerary domestics, who had preyed so long upon the vitals of my friend: a parcel of idle drones,

ſo intoleràbly inſolent, that they even treated their own maſter with the moſt contemptuous neglect. They had been generally hired by his wife, according to the recommendation of her woman, and theſe were the only patrons to whom they paid the leaſt deference. I had therefore uncommon ſatisfaction in clearing the houſe of thoſe vermin. The woman of the deceaſed, and a chambermaid, a valet de chambre, a butler, a French cook, a maſter gardener, two footmen, and a coachman, I paid off, and turned out of the houſe immediately, paying to each a month's wages in lieu of warning. Thoſe whom I retained conſiſted of a female cook, who had been aſſiſtant to the Frenchman, a houſe-maid, an old lacquey, a poſtilion, and under gardener. Thus I removed at once a huge mountain of expence and care from the ſhoulders of my friend, who could hardly believe the evidence of his own ſenſes, when he found himſelf ſo ſuddenly and ſo effectually relieved. His heart, however, was ſtill ſubject to vibrations of tenderneſs, which returned at certain intervals, extorting ſighs, and tears, and exclamations of grief and impatience: but theſe fits grew every day leſs violent and leſs frequent, 'till at length his reaſon obtained a complete victory over the infirmities of his nature.

Upon an accurate inquiry into the ſtate of his affairs, I find his debts amount to twenty thouſand pounds, for eighteen thouſand pounds of which ſum his eſtate is mortgaged; and as he pays five per cent. intereſt, and ſome of his farms are unoccupied, he does not receive above two hundred pounds a-year clear from his lands, over and above the intereſt of his wife's fortune, which produced eight hundred pounds annually. For lightening this heavy burthen, I deviſed the following expedient. His wife's jew-

els, together with his ſuperfluous plate and furniture in both houſes, his horſes and carriages, which are already advertiſed to be ſold by auction, will, according to the eſtimate, produce two thouſand five hundred pounds in ready money, with which the debt will be immediately reduced to eighteen thouſand pounds—I have undertaken to find him ten thouſand pounds at four per cent. by which means he will ſave one hundred a-year in the article of intereſt, and perhaps we ſhall be able to borrow the other eight thouſand on the ſame terms. According to his own ſcheme of a country life, he ſays he can live comfortably for three hundred pounds a-year; but as he has a ſon to educate, we will allow him five hundred; then there will be an accumulating fund of ſeven hundred a-year, principal and intereſt, to pay off the incumbrance; and, I think, we may modeſtly add three hundred, on the preſumption of new-leaſing and improving the vacant farms; ſo that, in a couple of years, I ſuppoſe there will be above a thouſand a-year appropriated to liquidate a debt of ſixteen thouſand.

We forthwith began to claſs and ſet apart the articles deſigned for ſale, under the direction of an upholder from London; and, that nobody in the houſe might be idle, commenced our reformation without doors, as well as within. With Baynard's good leave, I ordered the gardener to turn the rivulet into its old channel, to refreſh the fainting Naiads, who had ſo long languiſhed among mouldering roots, withered leaves, and dry pebbles.—The ſhrubbery is condemned to extirpation; and the pleaſure-ground will be reſtored to its original uſe of corn-field and paſture.—Orders are given for rebuilding the walls of the garden at the back of the houſe, and for planting clumps of firs, intermingled with beech and cheſnut,

at the eaſt end, which is now quite expoſed to the ſurly blaſts that come from that quarter. All theſe works being actually begun, and the houſe and auction left to the care and management of a reputable attorney, I brought Baynard along with me in the chaiſe, and made him acquainted with Denniſon, whoſe goodneſs of heart could not fail to engage his eſteem and affection.—He is indeed charmed with our ſociety in general, and declares that he never ſaw the theory of true pleaſure reduced to practice before.—I really believe it would not be an eaſy taſk to find ſuch a number of individuals aſſembled under one roof, more happy than we are at preſent.

I muſt tell you, however, in confidence, I ſuſpect Tabby of tergiverſation.—I have been ſo long accuſtomed to that original, that I know all the caprices of her heart, and can often perceive her deſigns while they are yet in embrio—She attached herſelf to Liſmahago for no other reaſon but that ſhe deſpaired of making a more agreeable conqueſt —At preſent, if I am not much miſtaken in my obſervation, ſhe would gladly convert the widowhood of Baynard to her own advantage.———Since he arrived, ſhe has behaved very coldly to the captain, and ſtrove to faſten on the other's heart with the hooks of overſtrained civility.—Theſe muſt be the inſtinctive efforts of her conſtitution, rather than the effects of any deliberate deſign; for matters are carried to ſuch a length with the lieutenant, that ſhe could not retract with any regard to conſcience or reputation. Beſides, ſhe will meet with nothing but indifference or averſion on the ſide of Baynard, who has too much ſenſe to think of ſuch a partner at any time, and too much delicacy to admit a thought of any ſuch connexion at the preſent juncture—Meanwhile, I have prevailed upon her to let him have four thouſand

pounds at four per cent. towards paying off his mortgage. Young Denniſon has agreed that Liddy's fortune ſhall be appropriated to the ſame purpoſe, on the ſame terms.—His father will ſell out three thouſand pounds ſtock for his accommodation.—Farmer Bland has, at the deſire of Wilſon, undertaken for two thouſand; and I muſt make an effort to advance what further will be required to take my friend out of the hands of the Philiſtines. He is ſo pleaſed with the improvements made on this eſtate, which is all cultivated like a garden, that he has entered himſelf as a pupil in farming to Mr. Denniſon, and reſolved to attach himſelf wholly to the practice of huſbandry.

Every thing is now prepared for our double wedding. The marriage-articles for both couples are drawn and executed; and the ceremony only waits until the parties ſhall have been reſident in the pariſh the term preſcribed by law. Young Denniſon betrays ſome ſymptoms of impatience; but Iſmahago bears this neceſſary delay with the temper of a philoſopher.—You muſt know, the captain does not ſtand altogether on the foundation of perſonal merit. Beſides his half-pay, amounting to two and forty pounds a year, this indefatigable œconomiſt has amaſſed eight hundred pounds, which he has ſecured in the funds. This ſum ariſes partly from his pay's running up while he remained among the Indians; partly from what he received as a conſideration for the difference between his full appointment and the half-pay to which he is now reſtricted; and partly from the profits of a little traffic he drove in peltry, during his ſachemſhip among the Miamis.

Liddy's fear and perplexities have been much aſſuaged by the company of one Miſs Willis, who had been her intimate companion at the boarding-ſchool.

Her parents had been earneſtly ſollicited to allow her making this friendly viſit on ſuch an extraordinary occaſion; and two days ago ſhe arrived with her mother, who did not chuſe that ſhe ſhould come without a proper gouvernante. The young lady is very ſprightly, handſome, and agreeable, and the mother a mighty good ſort of woman; ſo that their coming adds conſiderably to our enjoyment. But we ſhall have a third couple yoked in the matrimonial chain. Mr. Clinker Loyd has made humble remonſtrance, through the canal of my nephew, ſetting forth the ſincere love and affection mutually ſubſiſting between him and Mrs. Winifred Jenkins, and praying my conſent to their coming together for life. I could have wiſhed that Clinker had kept out of this ſcrape; but as the nymph's happineſs is at ſtake, and ſhe has had already ſome fits in the way of deſpondence, I, in order to prevent any tragical cataſtrophe, have given him leave to play the fool, in imitation of his betters; and I ſuppoſe we ſhall in time have a whole litter of his progeny at Brambleton-hall. The fellow is ſtout and luſty, very ſober and conſcientious; and the wench ſeems to be as great an enthuſiaſt in love as in religion.

I wiſh you would think of employing him ſome other way, that the pariſh may not be overſtocked—you know he has been bred a farrier, conſequently belongs to the faculty; and as he is very docile, I make no doubt but, with your good inſtruction, he may be, in a little time, qualified to act as a Welſh apothecary. Tabby, who never did a favour with a good grace, has conſented, with great reluctance, to this match. Perhaps it hurts her pride, as ſhe now conſiders Clinker in the light of a relation; but, I believe, her objections are of a more ſelfiſh nature. She declares ſhe cannot think of retaining the wife

of Matthew Loyd in the character of a ſervant; and ſhe foreſees, that on ſuch an occaſion the woman will expect ſome gratification for her paſt ſervices. As for Clinker, excluſive of other conſiderations, he is ſo truſty, brave, affectionate, and alert, and I owe him ſuch perſonal obligations, that he merits more than all the indulgence that can poſſibly be ſhewn him by

Yours,

Oct. 26. MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR KNIGHT,

THE fatal knots are now tied. The comedy is near a cloſe; and the curtain is ready to drop: but the latter ſcenes of this act I ſhall recapitulate in order.—About a fortnight ago, my uncle made an excurſion acroſs the country, and brought hither a particular friend, one Mr. Baynard, who has juſt loſt his wife, and was for ſome time diſconſolate, though by all accounts he had much more cauſe for joy than for ſorrow at this event.—His countenance, however, clears up apace; and he appears to be a perſon of rare accompliſhments.—But we have received another ſtill more agreeable reinforcement to our company, by the arrival of Miſs Willis from Glouceſter. She was Liddy's boſom friend at boarding-ſchool, and being earneſtly ſolicited to aſſiſt at the nuptials, her mother was ſo obliging as to grant my ſiſter's requeſt, and even to come with her in perſon. Liddy, accompanied by George Denniſon

and me, gave them the meeting half-way, and next day conducted them hither in ſafety. Miſs Willis is a charming girl, and, in point of diſpoſition, an agreeable contraſt to my ſiſter, who is rather too grave and ſentimental for my turn of mind. The other is gay, frank, a little giddy, and always good-humoured. She has, moreover, a genteel fortune, is well born, and remarkably handſome.—Ah Phillips! if theſe qualities were permanent—if her humour would never change, nor her beauties decay, what efforts would I not make—But theſe are idle reflections—my deſtiny muſt one day be fulfilled.

At preſent we paſs the time as agreeably as we can.—We have got up ſeveral farces, which afforded unſpeakable entertainment by the effects they produced among the country people, who are admitted to all our exhibitions.—Two nights ago, Jack Wilſon acquired great applauſe in Harlequin Skeleton, and Liſmahago ſurprized us all in the character of Pierot.—His long lank ſides, and ſtrong marked features, were all peculiarly adapted to his part.—He appeared with a ludicrous ſtare, from which he had diſcharged all meaning; he adopted the impreſſions of fear and amazement ſo naturally, that many of the audience were infected by his looks; but when the ſkeleton held him in chaſe his horror became moſt divertingly picturesque, and ſeemed to endow him with ſuch preternatural agility as confounded all the ſpectators. It was a lively repreſentation of Death in purſuit of Conſumption, and had ſuch an effect upon the commonalty, that ſome of them ſhrieked aloud, and others ran out of the hall in the utmoſt conſternation.

This is not the only inſtance in which the lieutenant has lately excited our wonder. His temper, which had been ſoured and ſhrivelled by diſappointment

and chagrin, is now ſwelled out, and ſmoothed like a raiſin in plum-porridge. From being reſerved and punctilious, he is become eaſy and obliging. He cracks jokes, laughs and banters, with the moſt facetious familiarity; and, in a word, enters into all our ſchemes of merriment and paſtime—The other day his baggage arrived in the waggon from London, contained in two large trunks and a long deal box not unlike a coffin. The trunks were filled with his wardrobe, which he diſplayed for the entertainment of the company, and he freely owned, that it conſiſted chiefly of the *opima ſpolia* taken in battle. What he ſelected for his wedding-ſuit was a tarniſhed white cloth faced with blue velvet, embroidered with ſilver; but he valued himſelf moſt upon a tye-periwig, in which he had made his firſt appearance as a lawyer above thirty years ago. This machine had been in buckle ever ſince, and now all the ſervants in the family were employed to friz it out for the occaſion, which was yeſterday celebrated at the pariſh-church. George Denniſon and his bride were diſtinguiſhed by nothing extraordinary in their apparel. His eyes lightened with eagerneſs and joy, and ſhe trembled with coyneſs and confuſion. My uncle gave her away, and her friend Willis ſupported her during the ceremony.

But my aunt and her paramour took the pas, and formed, indeed, ſuch a pair of originals, as, I believe, all England could not parallel. She was dreſſed in the ſtile of 1739; and the day being cold, put on a mantle of green velvet laced with gold: but this was taken off by the bridegroom, who threw over her ſhoulders a fur cloak of American ſables, valued at fourſcore guineas, a preſent equally agreeable and unexpected. Thus accoutred, ſhe was led up to the altar by Mr. Denniſon, who

did the office of her father: Liſmahago advanced in the military ſtep with his French coat reaching no farther than the middle of his thigh, his campaign wig that ſurpaſſes all deſcription, and a languiſhing leer upon his countenance, in which there ſeemed to be ſomething arch and ironical. The ring which he put upon her finger, he had concealed till the moment it was uſed. He now produced it with an air of ſelf-complacency. It was a curious antique, ſet with roſe diamonds: he told us afterwards, it had been in his family two hundred years, and was a preſent from his grand-mother. Theſe circumſtances agreeably flattered the pride of our aunt Tabitha, which had already found uncommon gratification in the captain's generoſity; for he had, in the morning, preſented my uncle with a fine bear's ſkin and a Spaniſh fowling-piece, and me with a caſe of piſtols curiouſly mounted with ſilver. At the ſame time he gave Mrs. Jenkins an Indian purſe, made of ſilk graſs, containing twenty crown-pieces. You muſt know, this young lady, with the aſſiſtance of Mr. Loyd, formed the third couple who yeſterday ſacrificed to Hymen. I wrote to you in my laſt, that he had recourſe to my mediation, which I employed ſucceſsfully with my uncle; but Mrs. Tabitha held out till the love-ſick Jenkins had two fits of the mother; then ſhe relented, and thoſe two cooing turtles were caged for life——Our aunt made an effort of generoſity in furniſhing the bride with her ſuperfluities of clothes and linen, and her example was followed by my ſiſter; nor did Mr. Bramble and I neglect her on this occaſion. It was, indeed, a day of peace-offering—Mr. Denniſon inſiſted upon Liddy's accepting two bank-notes of one hundred pounds each, as pocket-money; and his lady gave a diamond necklace of double that value. There

was, beſides, a mutual exchange of tokens among the individuals of the two families thus happily united.

As George Denniſon and his partner were judged improper objects of mirth, Jack Wilſon had reſolved to execute ſome jokes on Liſmahago, and after ſupper began to ply him with bumpers when the ladies had retired; but the captain perceiving his drift, begged for quarter, alledging, that the adventure in which he had engaged, was a very ſerious matter; and that it would be more the part of a good Chriſtian to pray that he might be ſtrengthened, than to impede his endeavours to finiſh the adventure.—He was ſpared accordingly, and permitted to aſcend the nuptial couch with all his ſenſes about him.—There he and his conſort ſat in ſtate, like Saturn and Cybele, where the benediction poſſet was drank; and a cake being broken over the head of Mrs. Tabitha Liſmahago, the fragments were diſtributed among the bye-ſtanders, according to the cuſtom of the ancient Britons, on the ſuppoſition that every perſon who ate of this hallowed cake, ſhould that night have a viſion of the man or woman whom Heaven deſigned ſhould be his or her wedded mate.

The weight of Wilſon's waggery fell upon honeſt Humphry and his ſpouſe, who were bedded in an upper room, with the uſual ceremony of throwing the ſtocking.—This being performed, and the company withdrawn, a ſort of caterwauling enſued, when Jack found means to introduce a real cat ſhod with walnut-ſhells, which galloping along the boards, made ſuch a dreadful noiſe as effectually diſcompoſed our lovers.——Winifred ſcreamed aloud, and ſhrunk under the bed-cloaths.—Mr. Loyd, believing that Satan was come to buffet him *in propria perſona*, laid aſide all carnal thoughts, and began to pray aloud with great fervency.—At length, the poor animal,

being more afraid than either, leaped into the bed, and meauled with the moſt piteous exclamation.—Loyd, thus informed of the nature of the annoyance, roſe and ſet the door wide open, ſo that this troubleſome viſitant retreated with great expedition; then ſecuring himſelf by means of a double bolt from a ſecond intruſion, he was left to enjoy his good fortune without further diſturbance.

If one may judge from the looks of the parties, they are all very well ſatisfied with what has paſſed.—George Denniſon and his wife are too delicate to exhibit any ſtrong-marked ſigns of their mutual ſatisfaction, but their eyes are ſufficiently expreſſive.—Mrs. Tabitha Liſmahago is rather fulſome in ſignifying her approbation of the captain's love; while his deportment is the very pink of gallantry.—He ſighs, and ogles, and languiſhes at this amiable object; he kiſſes her hand, mutters ejaculations of rapture, and ſings tender airs; and, no doubt, laughs internally at her folly in believing him ſincere.—In order to ſhew how little his vigour was impaired by the fatigues of the preceding day, he this morning danced a Highland ſaraband over a naked back-ſword, and leaped ſo high, that I believe he would make no contemptible figure as a vaulter at Sadler's Wells.—Mr. Matthew Loyd, when aſked how he reliſhes his bargain, throws up his eyes, crying, "For what we have received, Lord make us thankful: amen."—His helpmate giggles, and holds her hand before her eyes, affecting to be aſhamed of having been in bed with a man.—Thus all theſe widgeons enjoy the novelty of their ſituation; but perhaps their note will be changed, when they are better acquainted with the nature of the decoy.

As Mrs. Willis cannot be perſuaded to ſtay, and Liddy is engaged by promiſe to accompany her

daughter back to Glouceſter, I fancy there will be a general migration from hence, and that moſt of us will ſpend the Chriſtmas holidays at Bath, in which caſe I ſhall certainly find an opportunity to beat up your quarters—By this time, I ſuppoſe, you are ſick of *alma mater*, and even ready to execute that ſcheme of peregrination which was laſt year concerted between you and

Your affectionate

Nov. 8. J. MELFORD.

To Dr. LEWIS.

DEAR DOCTOR,

MY niece Liddy is now happily ſettled for life; and captain Liſmahago has taken Tabby off my hands; ſo that I have nothing further to do, but to comfort my friend Baynard, and provide for my ſon Loyd, who is alſo fairly joined to Mrs. Winifred Jenkins.—You are an excellent genius at hints.—Dr. Arbuthnot was but a type of Dr. Lewis in that reſpect.——What you obſerve of the veſtry-clerk deſerves conſideration.—I make no doubt but Matthew Loyd is well enough qualified for the office; but, at preſent, you muſt find room for him in the houſe.——His incorruptible honeſty and indefatigable care will be ſerviceable in ſuperintending the œconomy of my farm; though I don't mean that he ſhall interfere with Barnes, of whom I have no cauſe to complain.—I am juſt returned with Baynard from a ſecond trip to his houſe, where every thing is regulated to his ſatisfaction.—He could not, however, review the apartments without tears and lamentation,

ſo that he is not yet in a condition to be left alone; therefore I will not part with him till the ſpring, when he intends to plunge into the avocations of huſbandry, which will at once employ and amuſe his attention.—Charles Denniſon has promiſed to ſtay with him a fortnight, to ſet him fairly afloat in his improvements; and Jack Wilſon will ſee him from time to time: beſides, he has a few friends in the country, whom his new plan of life will not exclude from his ſociety.—In leſs than a year, I make no doubt but he will find himſelf perfectly at eaſe both in his mind and body, for the one had dangerouſly affected the other; and I ſhall enjoy the exquiſite pleaſure of ſeeing my friend reſcued from miſery and contempt.

Mrs. Willis being determined to return with her daughter, in a few days, to Glouceſter, our plan has undergone ſome alteration.—Jery has perſuaded his brother-in-law to carry his wife to Bath; and I believe his parents will accompany him thither—For my part, I have no intention to take that route—It muſt be ſomething very extraordinary that will induce me to reviſit either Bath or London.——My ſiſter and her huſband, Baynard and I, will take leave of them at Glouceſter, and make the beſt of our way to Brambleton-hall, where I deſire you will prepare a good chine and turkey for our Chriſtmas dinner.—You muſt alſo employ your medical ſkill in defending me from the attacks of the gout, that I may be in good caſe to receive the reſt of our company, who promiſe to viſit us in their return from the Bath.—As I have laid in a conſiderable ſtock of health, it is to be hoped you will not have much trouble with me in the way of phyſic, but I intend to work you on the ſide of exerciſe.—I have got an excellent fowling piece from Mr. Liſmahago, who

is a keen ſportſman, and we ſhall take the heath in all weathers.—That this ſcheme of life may be proſecuted the more effectually, I intend to renounce all ſedentary amuſements, particularly that of writing long letters; a reſolution which, had I taken it ſooner, might have ſaved you the trouble which you have lately taken in reading the tedious epiſtles of

Nov. 20. MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Mrs. GWYLLIM, at Brambleton-hall.

GOOD MRS. GWYLLIM,

HEAVEN, for wiſe purpoſes, hath ordained that I ſhould change my name and citation in life, ſo that I am not to be conſidered any more as manger of my brother's family; but as I cannot ſurrender up my ſtewardſhip till I have ſettled with you and Williams, I deſire you will get your accunts ready for inſpection, as we are coming home without further delay. My ſpouſe, the captain, being ſubject to rummaticks, I beg you will take great care to have the blew chamber, up two pair of ſtairs, well warmed for his reception. Let the ſaſhes be ſecured, the crevices ſtopt, the carpets laid, and the beds well touſled. Mrs. Loyd, late Jenkins, being married to a relation of the family, cannot remain in the capacity of a ſarvant; therefore, I wiſh you would caſt about for ſome creditable body to be with me in her room—If ſhe can ſpin, and is miſtreſs of plain-work, ſo much the better—but ſhe muſt not expect extravagant

wages—having a family of my own, I muſt be more occumenical than ever. No more at preſent, but reſts

Your loving friend,

Nov. 20. TAB. LISMAHAGO.

To Mrs. MARY JONES, at Brambleton-Hall.

MRS. JONES,

PROVIDINCH hath bin pleaſed to make great halteration in the paſture of our affairs. We were yeſterday three kiple chined, by the greaſe of God, in the holy bands of mattermoney, and I now ſubſcrive myſelf Loyd at your ſarvice.—All the pariſh allowed that young 'ſquire Dalliſon and his bride was a comely pear for to ſee—As for madam Laſhmiheygo, you noſe her picklearities—her head, to be ſure, was fintaſtical; and her ſpouſe had rapt her with a long marokin furze cloak from the land of the ſelviges, thof they ſay it is of immenſe bally.—The captain himſelf had a huge haſſock of air, with three tails, and a tumtaudry coat, boddered with ſulfur.—Wan ſaid he was a monkey-bank; and the ould bottler ſwore he was the born imich of Titidall. For my part, I ſays nothing, being as how the captain has done the handſome thing by me.—Mr. Loyd was dreſſed in a lite frog, and checket with gould binding; and thof he don't enter in capariſon with great folks of quality, yet he has got as good blood in his veins as arrow privet 'ſquire in the county; and then his purſing is far from contentible.—Your

humble ſarvant had on a plain pea-green tabby ſack, with my Runnela cap, ruff toupee, and ſide curls.—They ſaid, I was the very moral of lady Rickman-ſtone, but not ſo pale—that may well be, for her layſhip is my elder by ſeven good years and more.—Now, Mrs. Mary, our ſatiety is to ſuppurate—Mr. Millfart goes to Bath along with the Dalliſons, and the reſt of us puſh home to Wales, to paſs our Chriſhmarſh at Brampleton-hall.—As our apartment is to be the yallow pepper, in the third ſtory, pray carry my things thither.—I reſent my cumpliments to Mrs. Gwyllim, and I hope ſhe and I will live upon diſſent terms of civility.—Being, by God's bleſſing, removed to a higher ſpear, you'll excuſe my being familiar with the lower ſarvants of the family; but, as I truſt you'll behave reſpectful, and keep a proper diſtance, you may always depend upon the good-will and protection of

Yours,

Nov 20. W. Loyd.

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